プライド
4
Pride
一条ゆかり
Ichijo Yukari
QUEEN'S COMICS

PRIDE 4

Yukari Ichijo

CHORUS
コーラス
QUEEN'S COMICS
クイーンズ コミックス

PRIDE 4

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プライド
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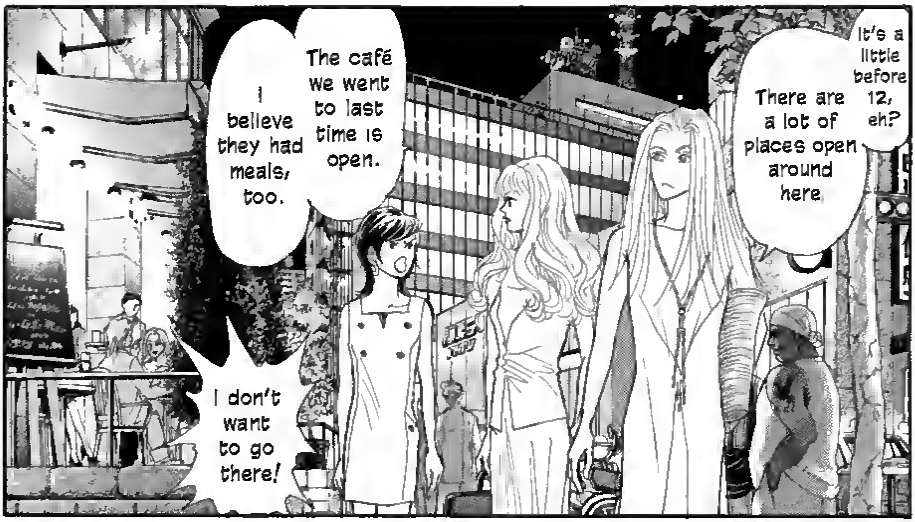
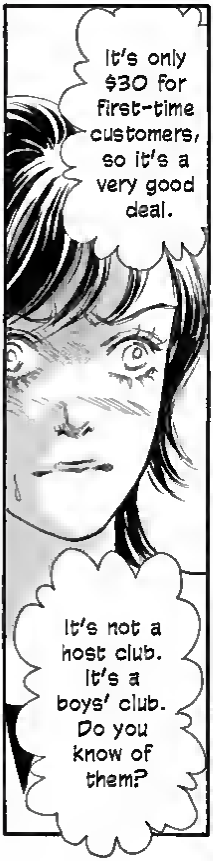
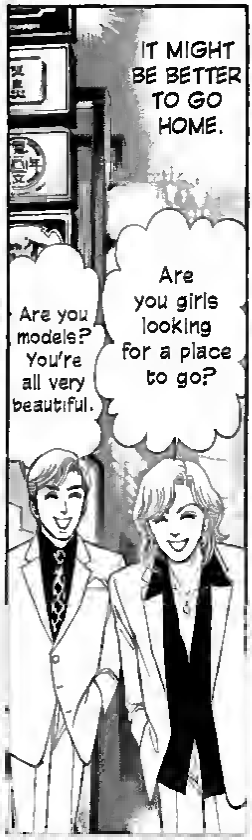
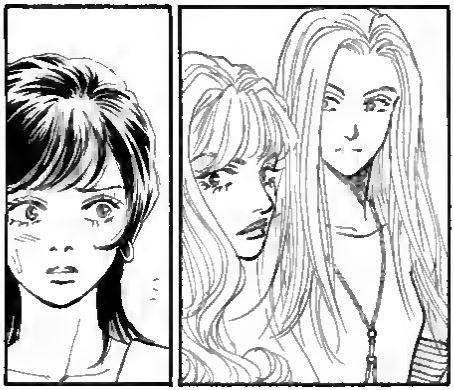
See? It's great music for those who like this kind of music.
Good! It was a success!
Where can I find them?
I want to see them again
They're also asking if we're re-broadcasting tonight's show.
I want to know more about them
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
I WANT TO SEE MORE OF SRM!!
I keep getting e-mails and faxes.
The reactions to SRM are amazing!
We've gotten feedback from fans of classical music, too.
This one says, It's like a peacock flew into a pigsty of a program!
There are a lot of people asking why they haven't debuted.
But there are more for SRM, since they won't be on next week.
Eiko received a lot of comments, too.


It's a little before 12, eh?
There are a lot of places open around here.
The café we went to last time is open.
I believe they had meals, too.
I don't want to go there!



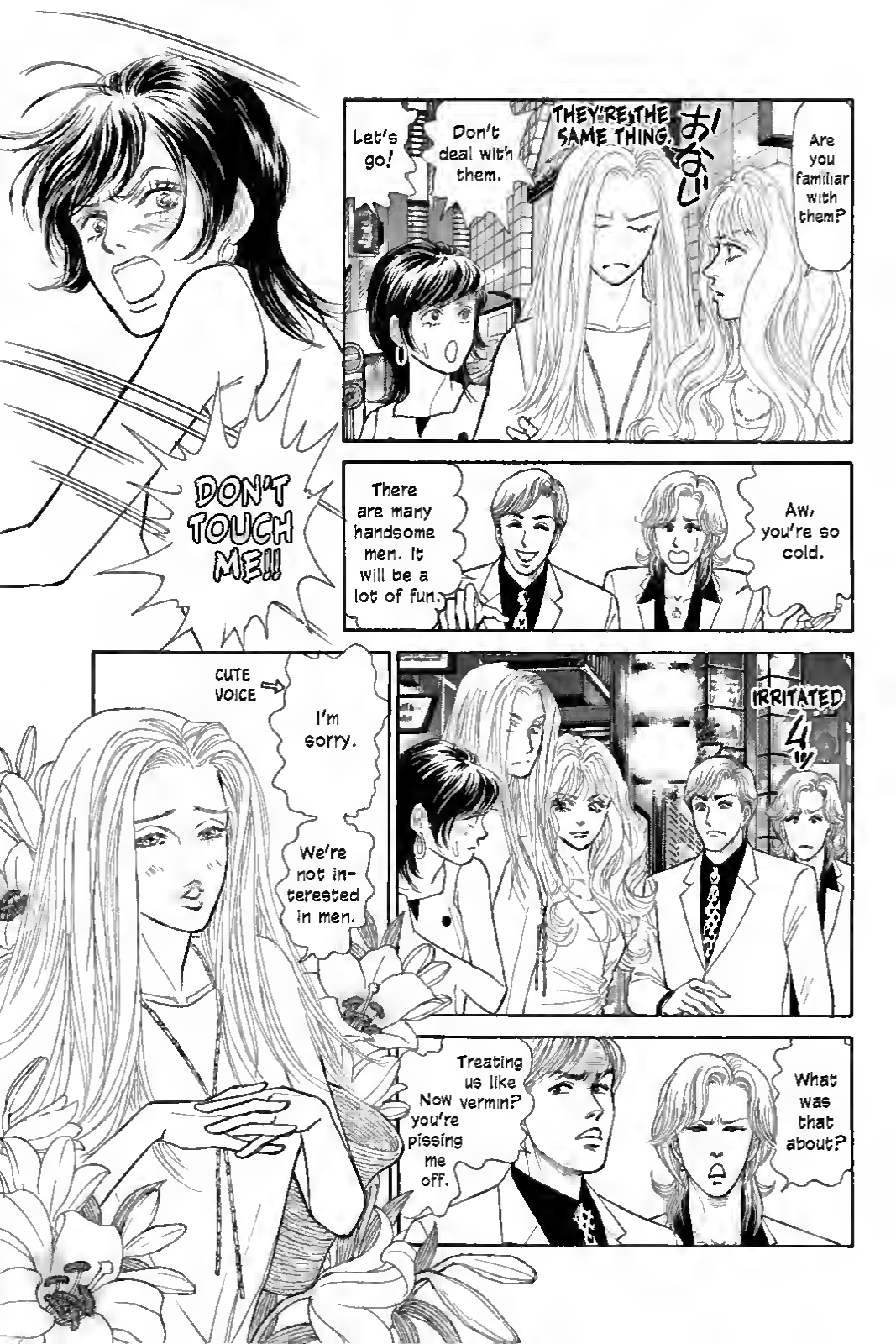


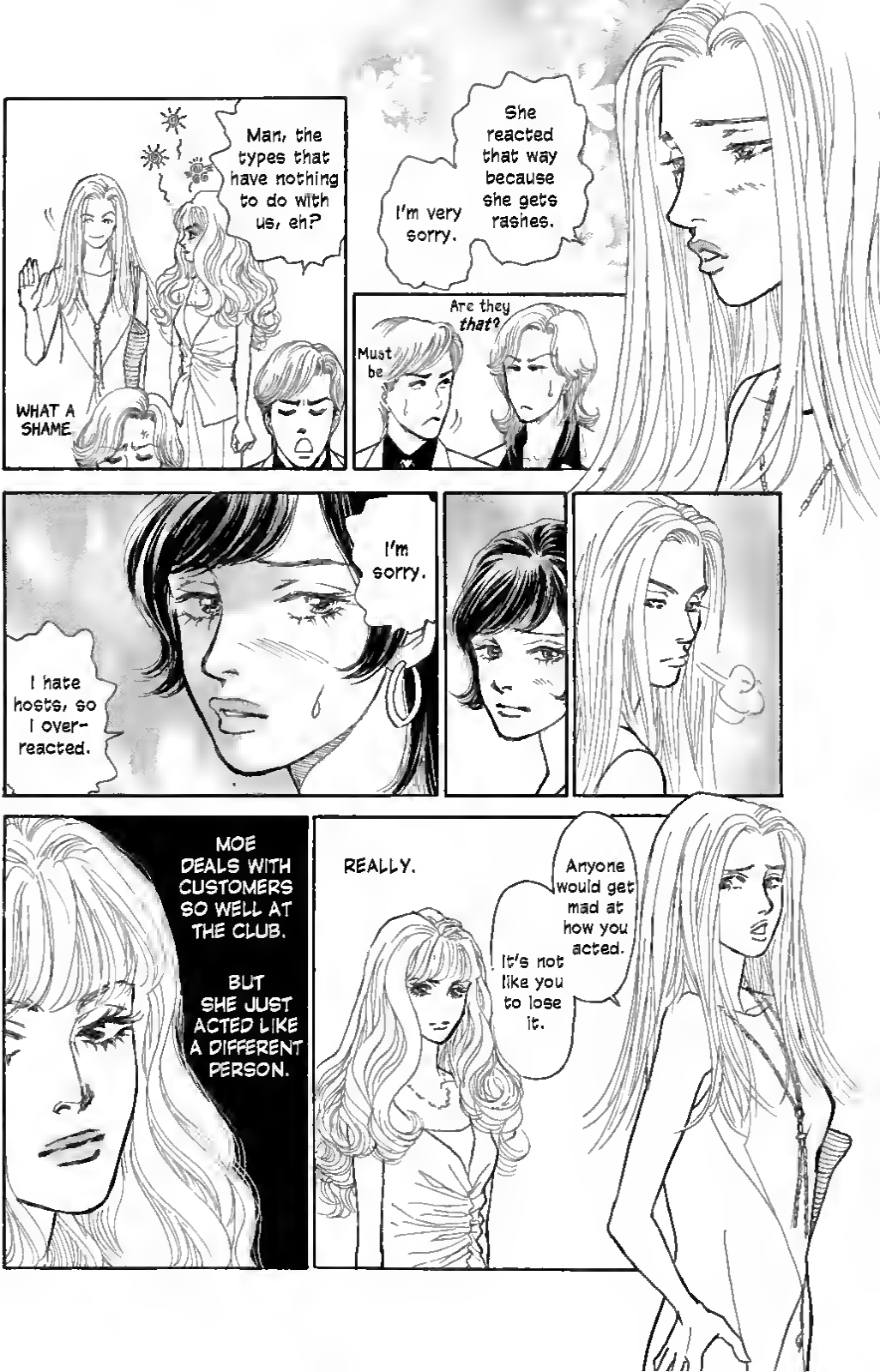


I DON'T WANT TO RUN INTO MOM AGAIN.

I'm tired, so I prefer Japanese food.

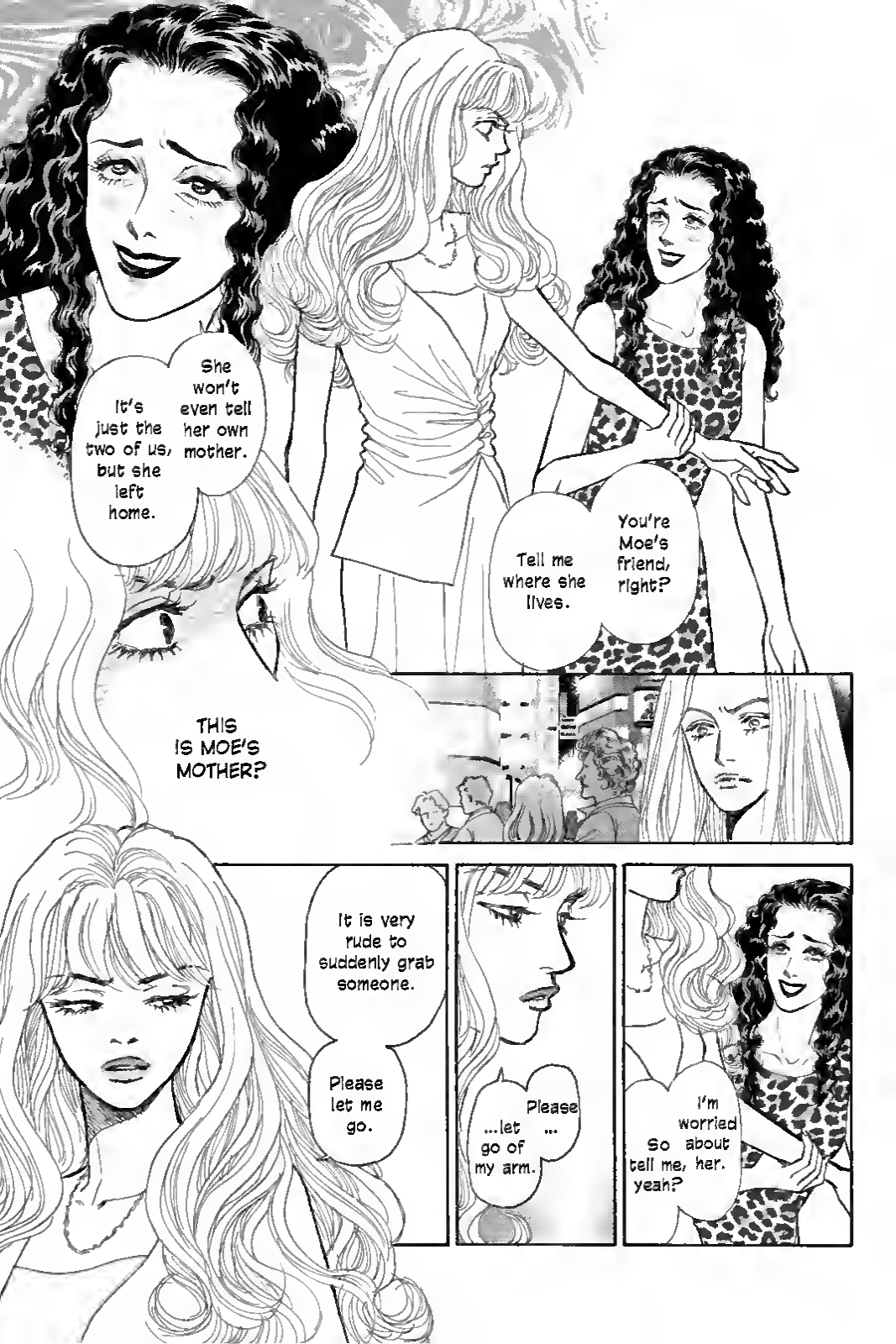
IF THAT GUY SHE WAS WITH WORKS AROUND HERE, THERE'S A POSSIBILITY...


DON'T TOUCH ME!!
Let's go!
Don't deal with them.
THEY'RE THE SAME THING.
おない
Are you familiar with them?
There are many handsome men. It will be a lot of fun.
Aw, you're so cold.
CUTE VOICE
I'm sorry.
We're not interested in men.
IRRITATED
Treating us like Now vermin? you're pissing me off.
What was that about?


Man, the types that have nothing to do with us, eh?
WHAT A SHAME.
She reacted that way because she gets rashes.
I'm very sorry.
Are they *that*?
Must be
I'm sorry.
I hate hosts, so I over-reacted.
MOE DEALS WITH CUSTOMERS SO WELL AT THE CLUB.
BUT SHE JUST ACTED LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON.
REALLY.
Anyone would get mad at how you acted.
It's not like you to lose it.

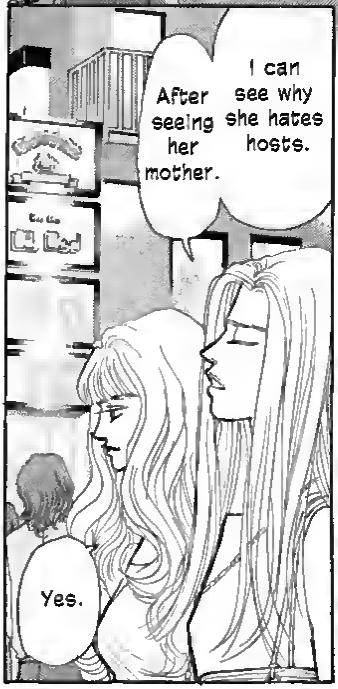
But Hide, I bought you the suit because you wanted it.
I borrowed the money and can't get another advance!
You know how it works. You're a hostess!
I already told you, if you want to see me, come to the club.
Dinner's on me tonight!
My bad!
STREET
Moe!

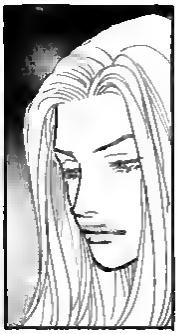
Fumi won't tell me.
Do you work around here?
PUB CARDINAL
Moe! Come back here!
HUH?!
Moe!

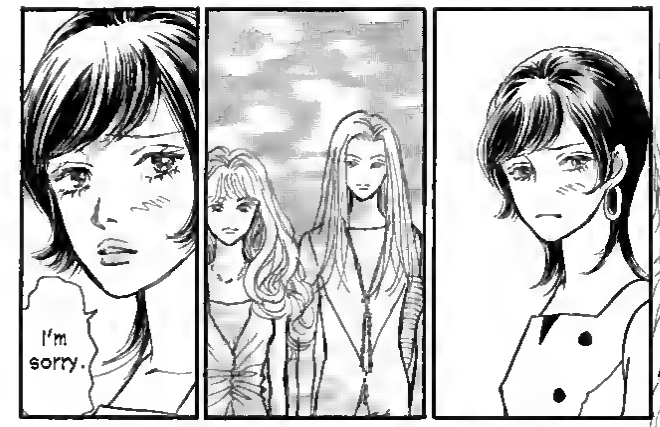

She won't even tell her own mother.
It's just the two of us, but she left home.
You're Moe's friend, right?
Tell me where she lives.
THIS IS MOE'S MOTHER?
It is very rude to suddenly grab someone.
Please let me go.
Please ...let go of my arm.
I'm worried about her. So tell me, yeah?

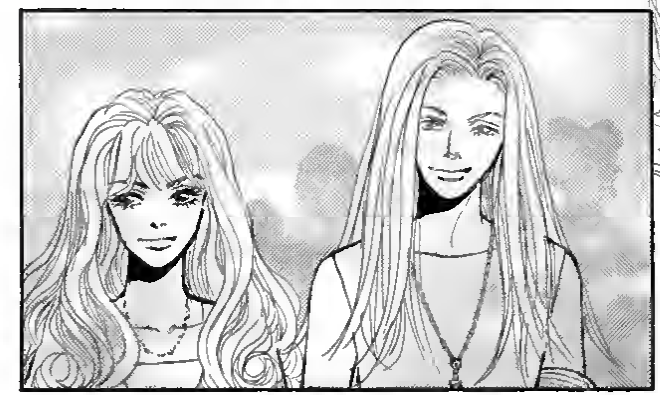
GAME
I can't tell you if Moe hasn't told you.
But I will let her know that you were worried.
Please excuse us.
Oh! Uh...
So, where does Moe work now?
Hey. I was wondering ...
...could you lend me $200?
You can have Moe pay you back!
H-hey, you!
Wait!
If her mother is in need, she should be willing to give me $200!
I sent her to music school!

You're going to use it all on that host, aren't you?
It's no wonder Moe left home.
NIGHT STREET CLUB

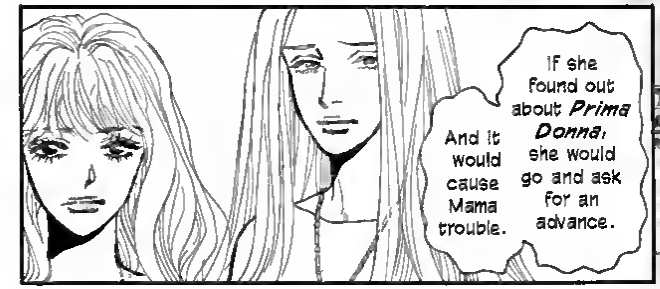

I can see why she hates hosts.
After seeing her mother.
Yes.

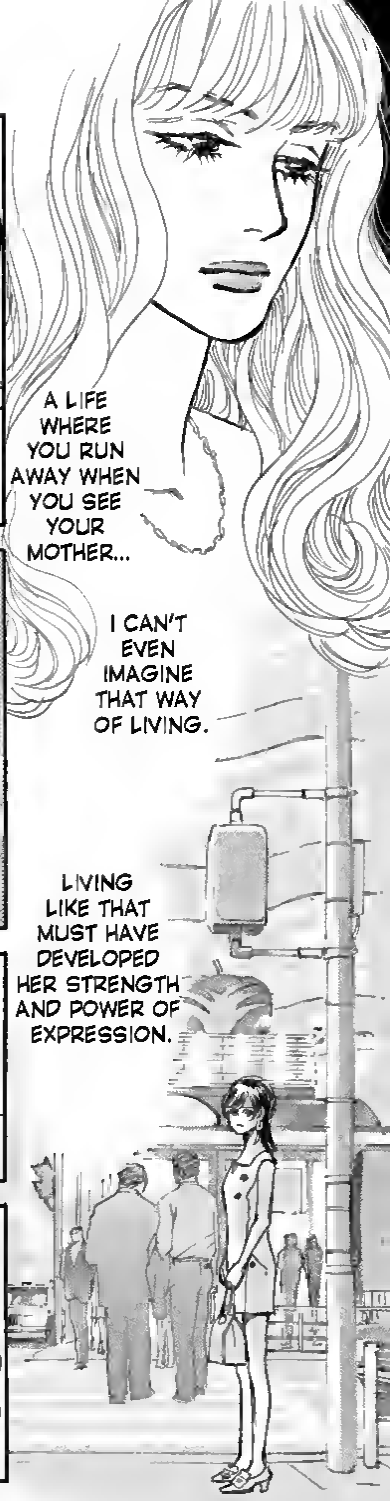


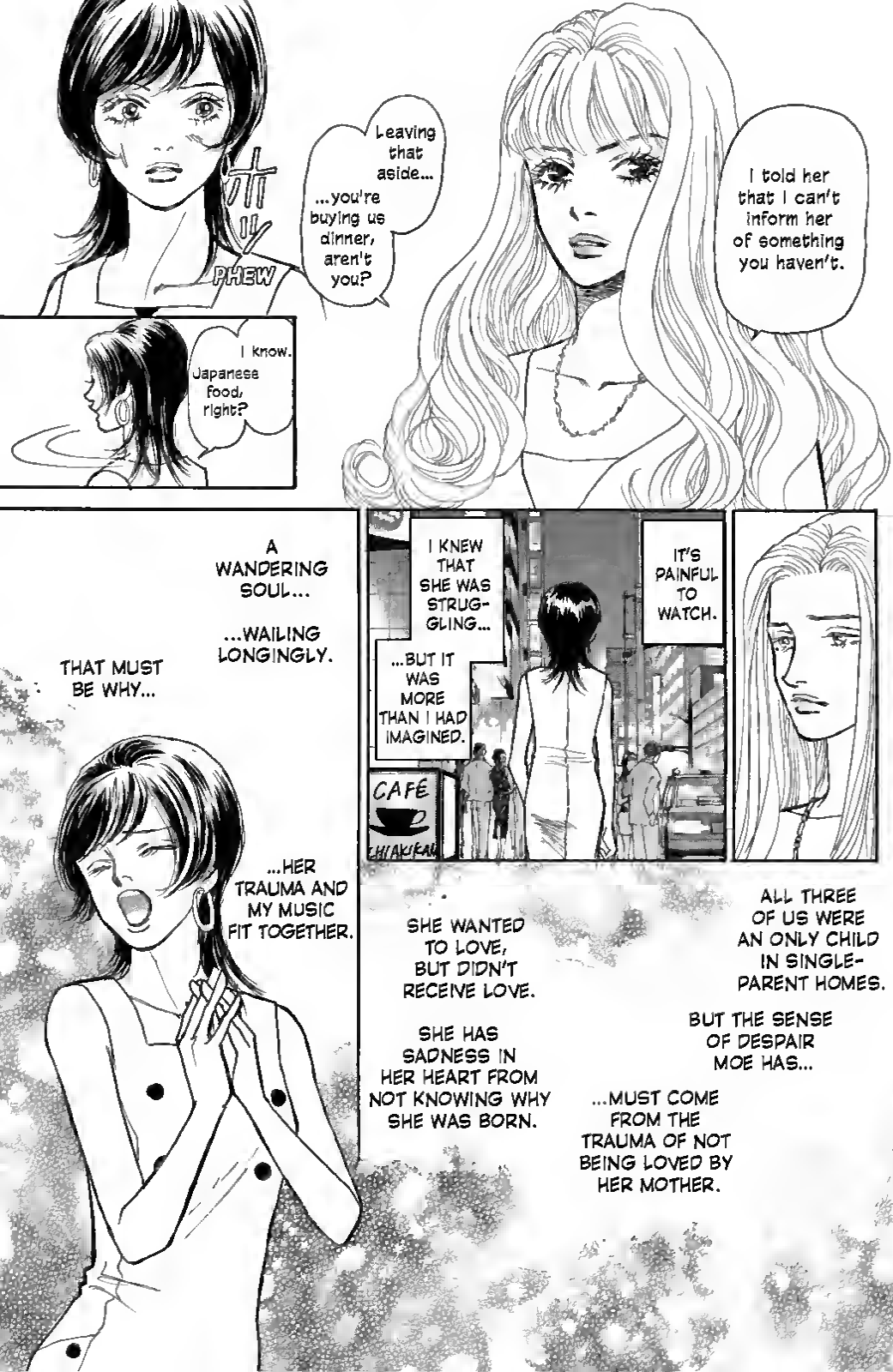

I'm sorry.



Like where I work?
Did she ask about me?

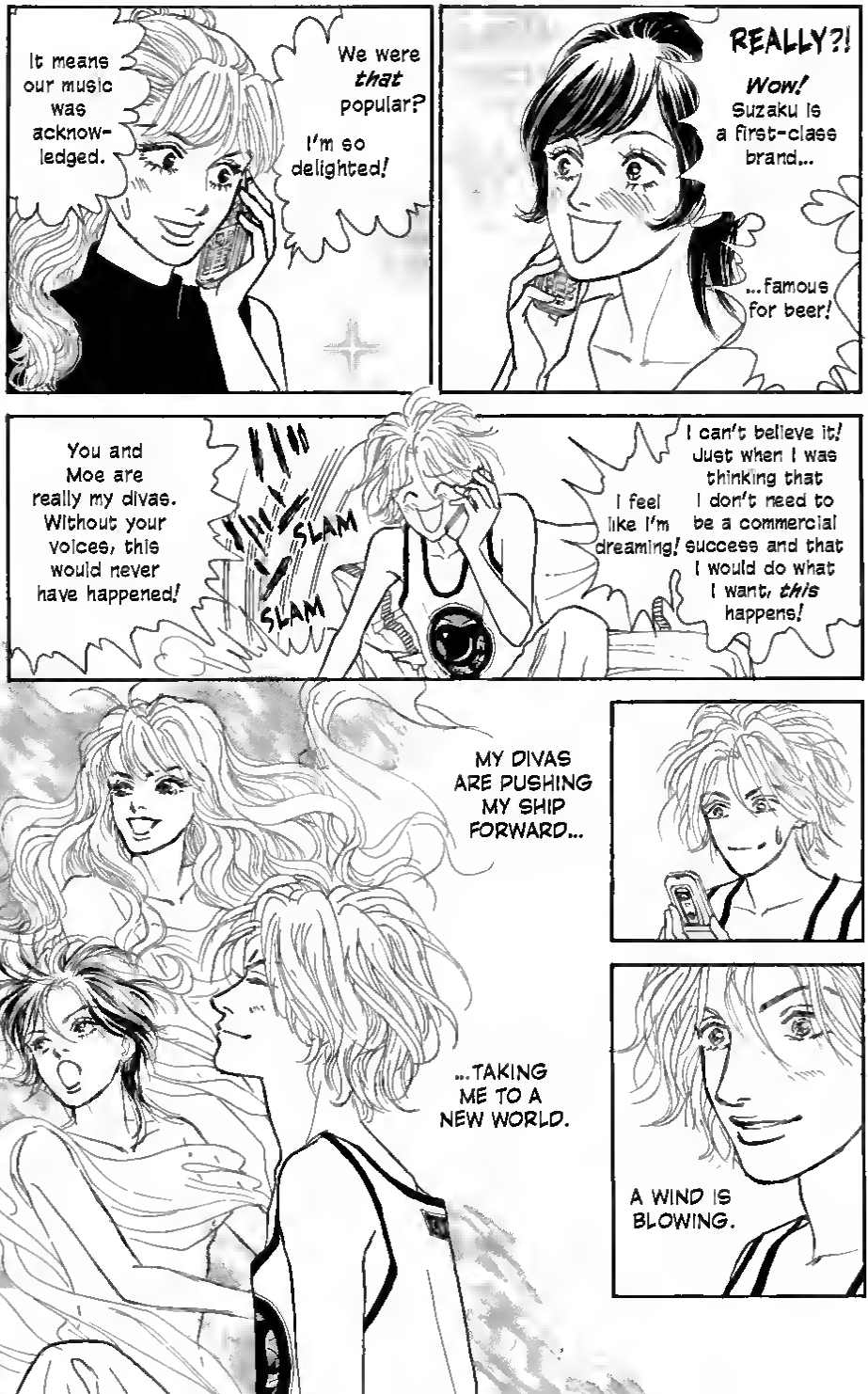

And it would cause Mama trouble.
If she found out about *Prima Donna*, she would go and ask for an advance.

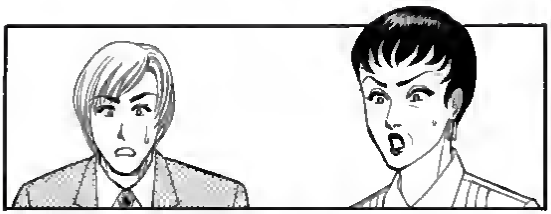

A LIFE WHERE YOU RUN AWAY WHEN YOU SEE YOUR MOTHER...
I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE THAT WAY OF LIVING.
LIVING LIKE THAT MUST HAVE DEVELOPED HER STRENGTH AND POWER OF EXPRESSION.


PHEW
Leaving that aside...
...you're buying us dinner, aren't you?
I know. Japanese food, right?
I told her that I can't inform her of something you haven't.
IT'S PAINFUL TO WATCH.
I KNEW THAT SHE WAS STRUGGLING...
...BUT IT WAS MORE THAN I HAD IMAGINED.
CAFE
CHIAKIKAI
ALL THREE OF US WERE AN ONLY CHILD IN SINGLE-PARENT HOMES.
BUT THE SENSE OF DESPAIR MOE HAS...
...MUST COME FROM THE TRAUMA OF NOT BEING LOVED BY HER MOTHER.
SHE WANTED TO LOVE, BUT DIDN'T RECEIVE LOVE.
SHE HAS SADNESS IN HER HEART FROM NOT KNOWING WHY SHE WAS BORN.
A WANDERING SOUL...
...WAILING LONGINGLY.
THAT MUST BE WHY...
...HER TRAUMA AND MY MUSIC FIT TOGETHER.

SLAM
Hello?
Oh, Mr. Ikeda. Thank you for...
Good morning.
I saw the recording of the show.
You did well, but it couldn't be helped due to the quality of that show.
Don't get discouraged. You can try again.
SHAKE
Do you want me to continue comforting you?
We were so popular with the viewers! They got lots of e-mails and faxes asking about us! And we were invited to be on the show again!
And... and... we got an offer to do a...
COMMERCIAL !!

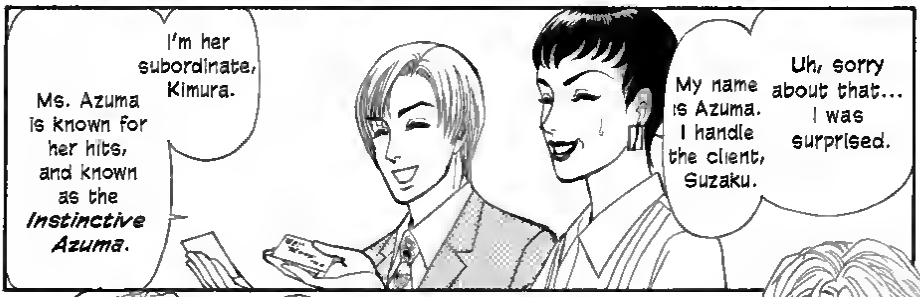
PRIDE 4

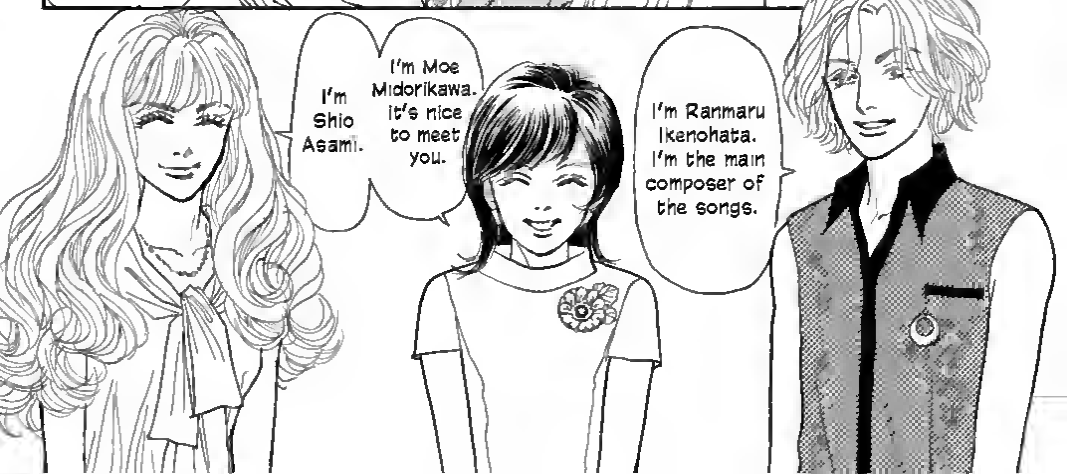

It means our music was acknowledged.
We were *that* popular?
I'm so delighted!
REALLY?!
Wow! Suzaku is a first-class brand...
...famous for beer!
You and Moe are really my divas. Without your voices, this would never have happened!
SLAM
SLAM
I feel like I'm dreaming!
I can't believe it! Just when I was thinking that I don't need to be a commercial success and that I would do what I want, *this* happens!
MY DIVAS ARE PUSHING MY SHIP FORWARD...
...TAKING ME TO A NEW WORLD.
A WIND IS BLOWING.



Nooo
She was my favorite.

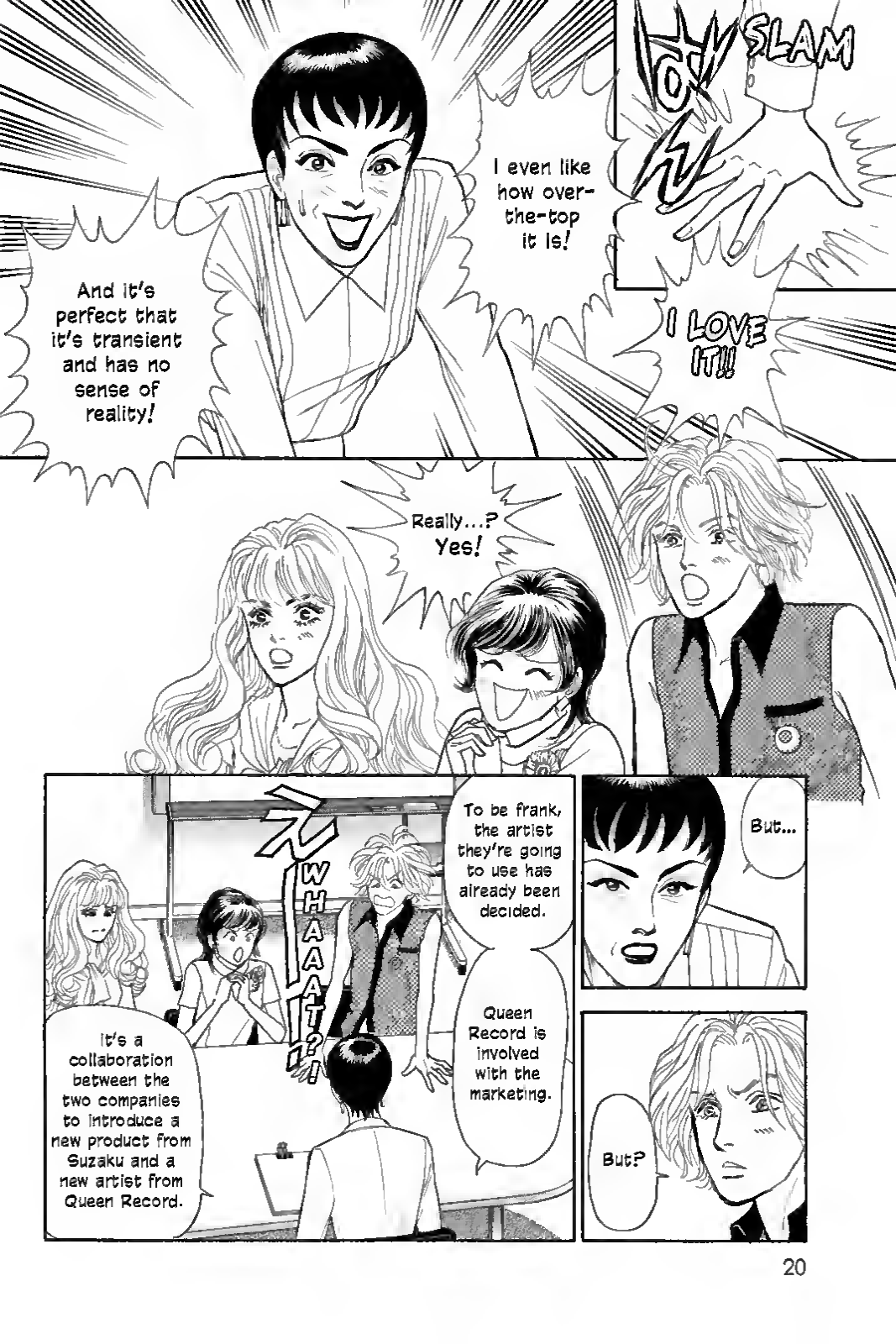
SHOWBIZ


I'm her subordinate, Kimura.
Ms. Azuma is known for her hits, and known as the Instinctive Azuma.
My name is Azuma. I handle the client, Suzaku.
Uh, sorry about that... I was surprised.

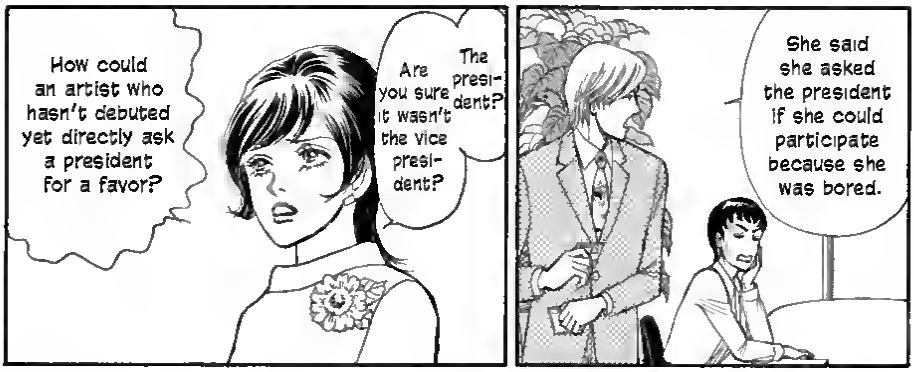

I'm Shio Asami.
I'm Moe Midorikawa. It's nice to meet you.
I'm Ranmaru Ikenohata. I'm the main composer of the songs.

PRIDE 4

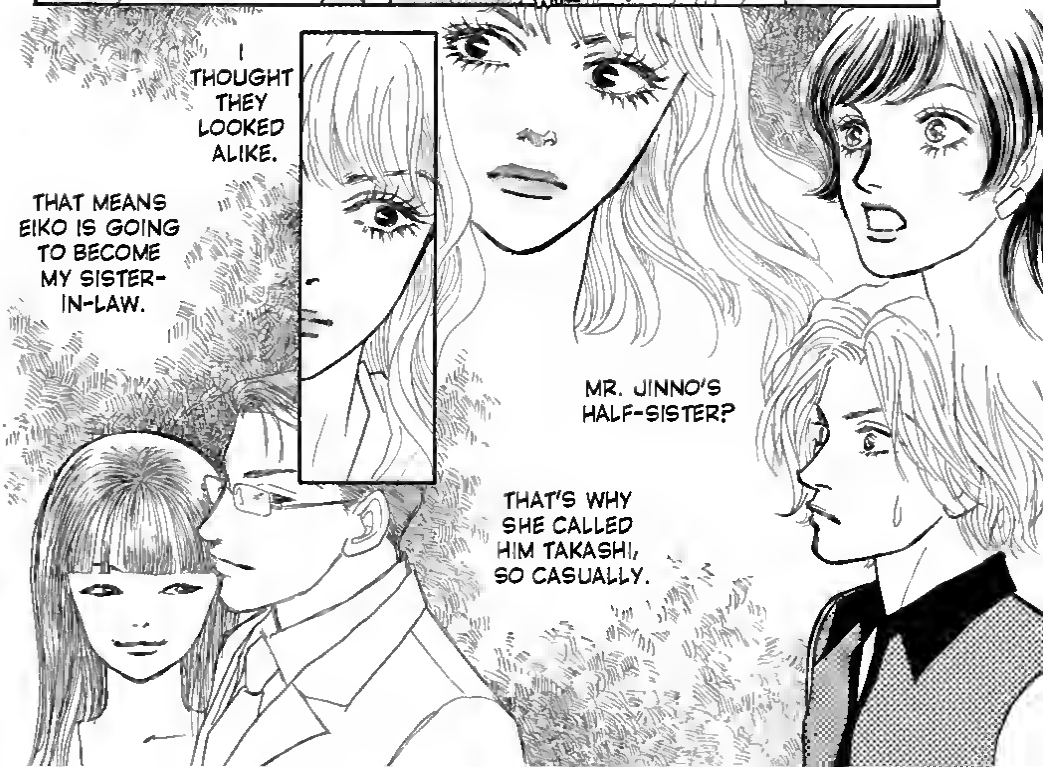
There it is! Ms. Azuma's instinct!
I was so excited, I couldn't sleep last night. I knew by instinct that this was the song!
These aren't studio recordings...
...but I have seven original pieces on this MD.
I'm looking forward to them.
I'LL BE FINE!
MY DIVAS ARE SINGING MY SONGS.
THIS IS OUR MUSIC, THE BEST OF WHAT WE CAN GIVE.
THAT IS WHY I FORMED THIS GROUP.
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME BEING ASSESSED JUST FOR MY MUSIC.
AFTER ALL, LOOKS ARE A BIG PART OF MAKING AN IMPRESSION.
I CAN'T FOOL ANYONE.


SLAM
I even like how over-the-top it is!
And it's perfect that it's transient and has no sense of reality!
I LOVE IT!!
Really...?
Yes!
To be frank, the artist they're going to use has already been decided.
Queen Record is involved with the marketing.
WHAAAT?!
It's a collaboration between the two companies to introduce a new product from Suzaku and a new artist from Queen Record.
But...
But?

I want to go with your group. You're perfect.
Now it's our job to persuade the conservative client to go along with our proposal.
So you would like to use our song, but you can't?
Suzaku has a voice in this matter.
If Suzaku likes you, this can be turned around in your favor.
If that were the case, I wouldn't have called you.
It's Eiko, who went on to the second round.
Yes. You all met her yesterday.
...a new artist who hasn't debuted yet?
Um...
Why did she participate when she already has her debut in the works?!
So that program's rigged?!
Eiko...

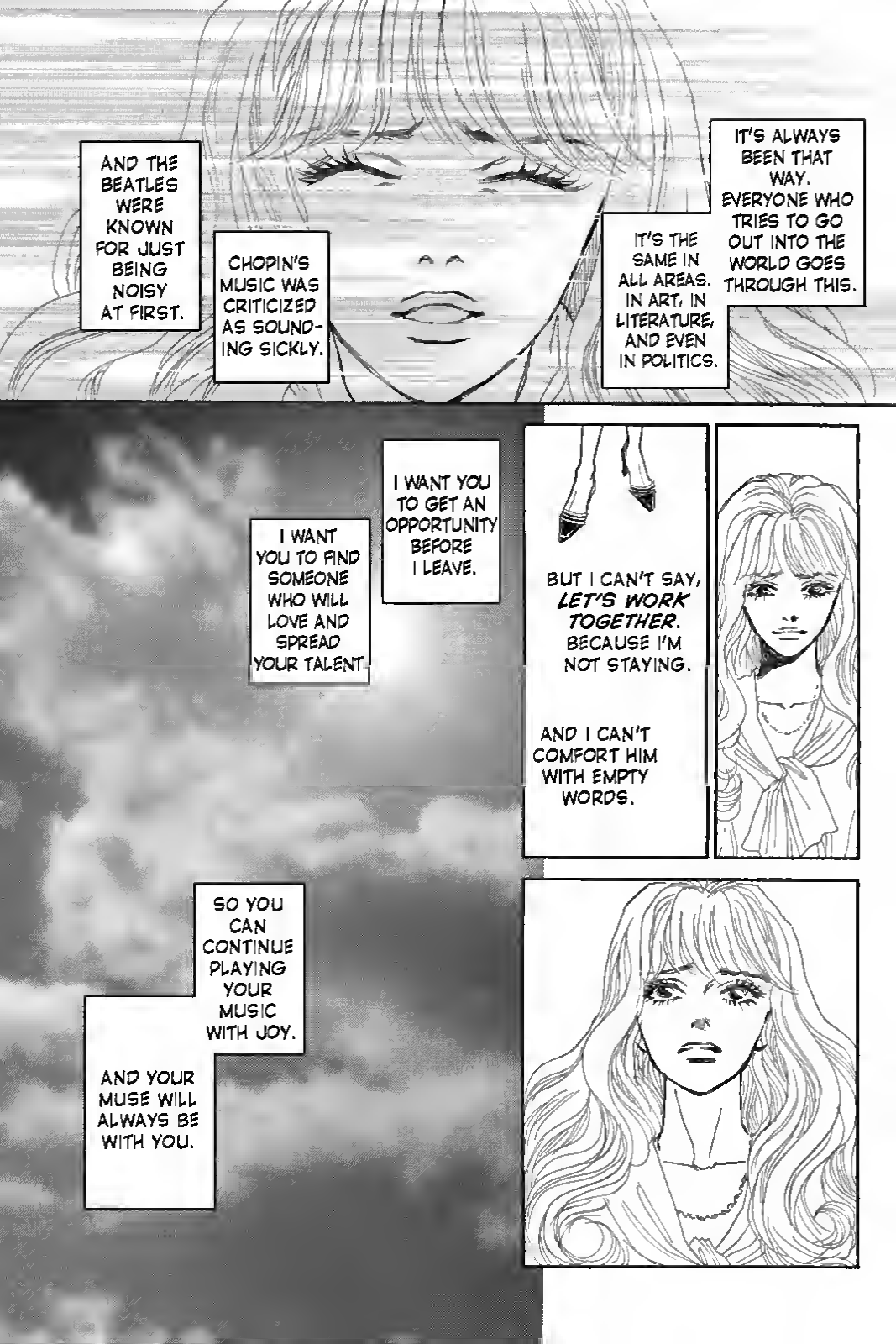

How could an artist who hasn't debuted yet directly ask a president for a favor?
Are you sure it wasn't the vice president?
The president?
She said she asked the president if she could participate because she was bored.

There was a rumor that a jazz singer named Junko Tachibana, whose career faded away right after her debut, was the president's mistress.
Eiko's last name is Tachibana.
...because I'm a jazz nerd in the industry.
I know these things...
...I think Eiko is the president's daughter.
Haha, you got me. This is a secret, but...
WHAT?!


I THOUGHT THEY LOOKED ALIKE.
THAT MEANS EIKO IS GOING TO BECOME MY SISTER-IN-LAW.
MR. JINNO'S HALF-SISTER?
THAT'S WHY SHE CALLED HIM TAKASHI, SO CASUALLY.

If that's the case, we can't turn this around.
Eiko could arrange my music for the mass consumer, and she has a good voice.
If the client is conservative, they'll choose her.
NO!!
That mysterious melody is what makes you good.
And that harmony! It's exquisite.
Even if she's the president's child, your song fits the image of Pariet Kongas better!
Anyone with a decent ear would understand that.
I guess it was all a dream.
It was short-lived.

I KNOW THIS IS A HUGE OPPORTUNITY, AND SOMETHING WE CAN'T GIVE UP EASILY.
EVEN MOE, WHO USUALLY CHEERS HIM UP, IS QUIET.
IT'S TRUE. EVEN IF THE ADVERTISING AGENCY IS ENTHUSIASTIC, THE CLIENT HAS THE FINAL SAY.
Me, too.
I'm going home.
I'm beat.
EVERY TIME SOMEONE TRIES TO START SOMETHING NEW, OLD TRADITIONS GET IN THE WAY.
CHEER UP, IKENOHATA.
YOU HAVE TALENT. SOON, THAT WILL BE RECOGNIZED.
THAT'S BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW HOW GOOD THE NEW THING IS.


AND THE BEATLES WERE KNOWN FOR JUST BEING NOISY AT FIRST.
CHOPIN'S MUSIC WAS CRITICIZED AS SOUND-ING SICKLY.
IT'S THE SAME IN ALL AREAS. IN ART, IN LITERATURE, AND EVEN IN POLITICS.
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY. EVERYONE WHO TRIES TO GO OUT INTO THE WORLD GOES THROUGH THIS.
I WANT YOU TO GET AN OPPORTUNITY BEFORE I LEAVE.
I WANT YOU TO FIND SOMEONE WHO WILL LOVE AND SPREAD YOUR TALENT.
BUT I CAN'T SAY, LET'S WORK TOGETHER. BECAUSE I'M NOT STAYING.
AND I CAN'T COMFORT HIM WITH EMPTY WORDS.
SO YOU CAN CONTINUE PLAYING YOUR MUSIC WITH JOY.
AND YOUR MUSE WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU.

I brought what I believe will succeed!
Excuse me, it's Azuma!

CONFERENCE ROOM 2

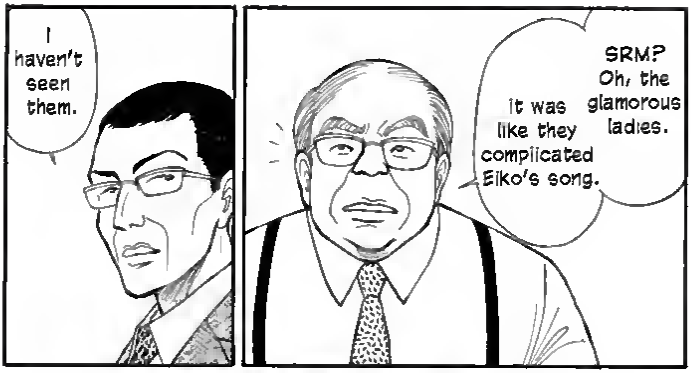
TAP
TAP
TAP

That's why I suggested using different music.
That song was great. If we use that, we don't have to be fixated on using classical music.
Eiko is pretty good.
I thought so too, but...

Huh?

I was surprised to see Eiko on *YoruNavi*.
I always check the programs our company sponsors.
I was just showing Matsuzawa.

...did you watch the last group, SRM?


I haven't seen them.
SRM? Oh, the glamorous ladies.
It was like they complicated Eiko's song.

It's sounds as if it were written specifically for the *Pariet Kongas* commercial!
It lingers in your ear and touches your heart!
Please do! Their song is high-class, refreshing, melancholy, magical, and beautiful!

My...
This is...
...indeed ...

It's too presumptuous and haughty. Eiko's song is much more favorable.
Geez. You like anything that is cerebral.
Mr. Yokokawa, let's go with this!
It's perfect!
But the priority is to make the *best* commercial.
Even if you're in charge of this commercial.
We can't back out of it now.
And this is a collaboration with Queen Record.
And are you prepared to take responsibility if the product doesn't sell?!
Young people have sophisticated taste these days. It would be fine.
What are you talking about? I...
Mr. Yokokawa, you're being too safe.
You're the only ones who think SRM is good.
It raises the morale of the employees and is pretty useful.
We use this method sometimes.
Fine. We'll make an Eiko version and an SRM version of the commercial. Why don't you have the company employees decide?

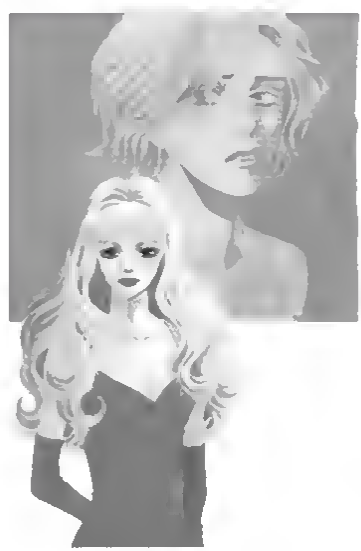
I'd like to know.
That's not what was promised!
WHAT?!
How did *that* happen?!
It'll be bad whichever way it goes!
I don't get a vote.
POUT
POUT
You care more for your fiancée than your half-sister.
Because you're going to vote for Shio.
I don't like this at all.
Are you saying my music could deceive amateurs, but my abilities are lower?
If the employees are voting, there's no need to worry. You'll win.

Eiko gets jealous regarding you, but she could care less about me.
You think opera is the best, after all.
I'm gonna go change
You might as well have said it.
I didn't say that. Stop being so cynical
And now you're getting married to Shio, so that's another blow.
When she wanted to get into opera, you dissuaded her.
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE ガチ ガチ
She doesn't want you to get married.
She came back to Japan when she found out you were getting married.
And what do you want me to do?!
DO SOMETHING. なんとかしろ
DO SOMETHING. なんとかしろ
If she doesn't get along with your wife, she'll have no one to turn to.
Anyway, when I die all she'll have is you.
DO SOMETHING なんとかしろ
DO SOMETHING. なんとかしろ
You were the one who told me to stop her because of her figure.
Yeah, but I didn't want her to hate me.

I'll consider this your last wish.
I think I've worked enough for the inheritance you're giving me.
So this is the last time.

CLAP
BRAVO!
CLAP
WOW!
And to be invited by you makes it even better!
I'm taking time off from school, so I haven't had a chance to come in contact with opera lately.
Opera is the best!
BRAVO!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
BACK THEN...
...I COULDN'T HAVE IMAGINED A DAY LIKE THIS WOULD COME.
I WAS SHRINKING IN THE CORNER.
NOW I'M HERE ACCOMPANIED BY MR. JINNO.
I have a favor to ask.
You're asking *me* for a favor?!
This hall...
...is where I met you...
...and where my life began.
COFFEE SHOP

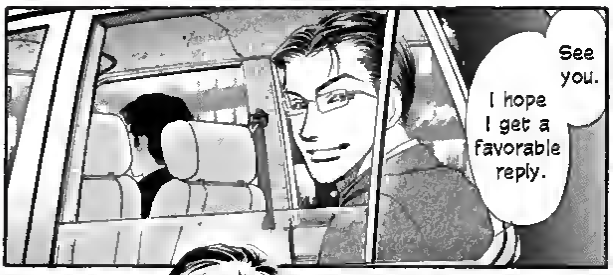
And you can't continue postponing going to Italy to study abroad. Or there's no point in the competition.
If you withdraw, the whole deal would be off.
Could you withdraw from the Suzaku commercial?
Not a bad deal, right?
You'll have a concert with fanfare. We'll hail you as Japan's young hope of the opera world.
In return, I'll promise you a CD release when you come back.
...will change from being there to being on the stage.
Your position...



...WILL CHANGE FROM BEING HERE TO BEING ON THE STAGE.
MY POSITION...
A CD RELEASE.
A CONCERT.
BEING JAPAN'S YOUNG HOPE OF THE OPERA WORLD.
THAT DREAM...
...COULD BECOME A REALITY BY JUST SAYING *YES* RIGHT NOW.

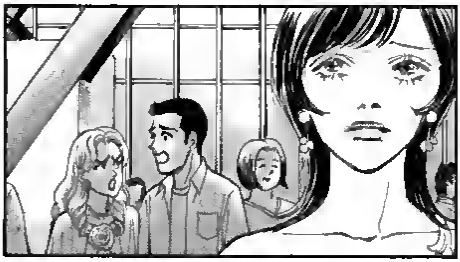
DO IT, MOE! JUST SAY YES!
I'LL NEVER GET A CHANCE LIKE THIS AGAIN.
I CAN GET AWAY FROM MOM.
.....
Could you...
...give me time to think?
This is all so sudden. And I'm a little confused.

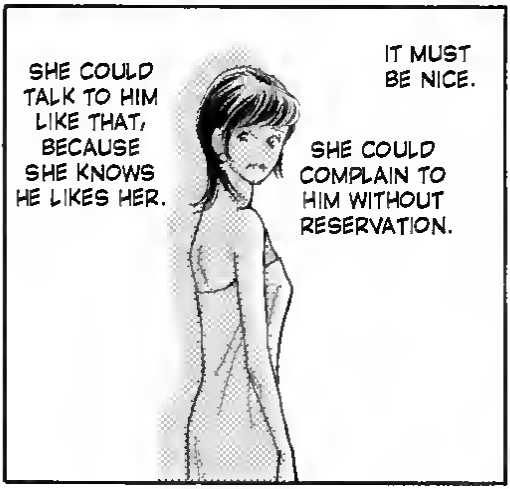
Let's go. The second act is starting.
If you're not stupid, you'll realize what's best for you.
Just let me know by tomorrow.
I KNOW THAT HE WON'T EVEN GIVE ME A CHANCE.
JUST BECAUSE HE'S NICE TO ME, IT DOESN'T MEAN I COULD BE HIS GIRLFRIEND.
AND MARRIAGE IS COMPLETELY OUT OF THE QUESTION. I KNOW.
HE'S MAD.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HE'LL EVENTUALLY MARRY SOMEONE MORE SUITABLE...
...AND BECOME THE PRESIDENT OF QUEEN RECORD.
SAY IT, MOE. SAY YES.

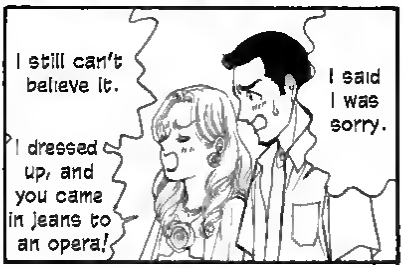

See you.
I hope I get a favorable reply.

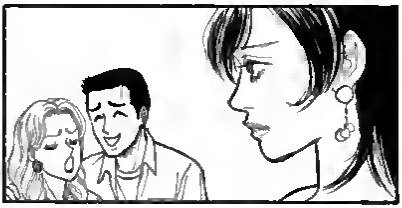
Sorry I can't give you a ride.
No, I wouldn't dream of it.
Thank you very much for tonight.

OK.
BUT I STILL WANT TO BE BY HIS SIDE.



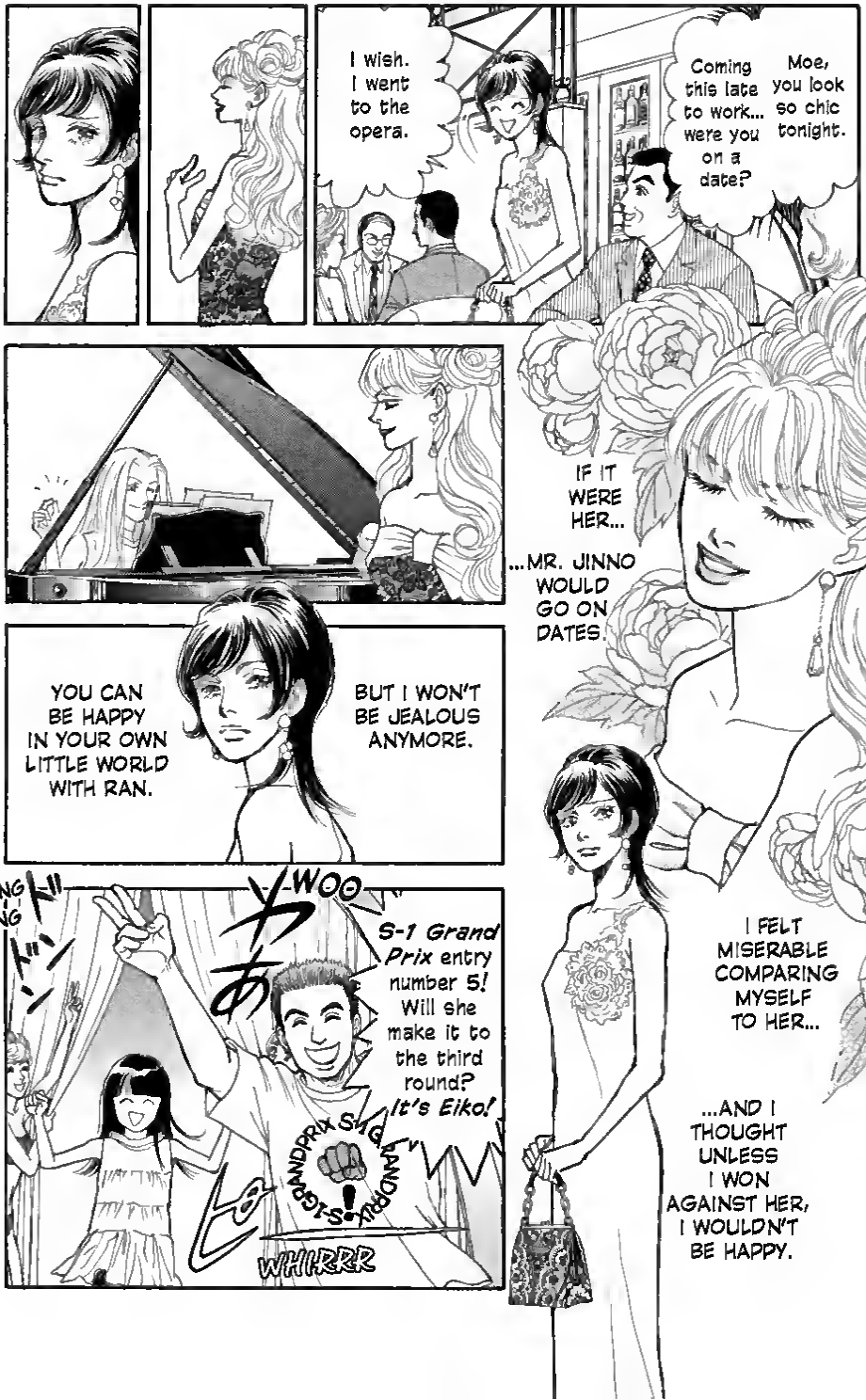

IT MUST BE NICE.
SHE COULD TALK TO HIM LIKE THAT, BECAUSE SHE KNOWS HE LIKES HER.
SHE COULD COMPLAIN TO HIM WITHOUT RESERVATION.

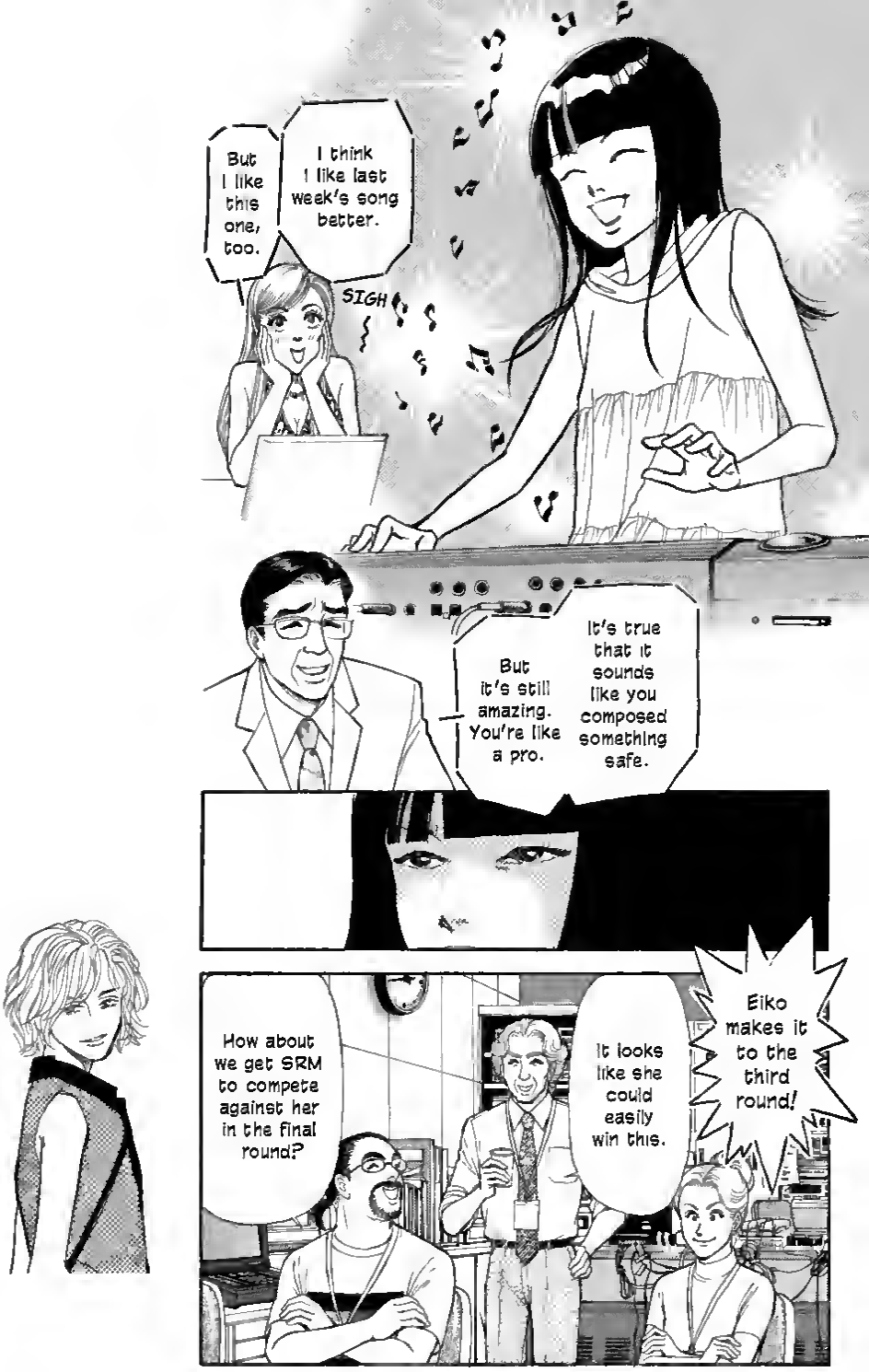

I still can't believe it.
I dressed up, and you came in jeans to an opera!
I said I was sorry.



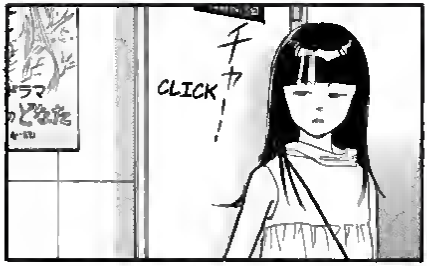
PRIDE 4

CHASING AFTER A MAN WHO WON'T LOVE ME...
...AND I'M GOING TO END UP PATHETIC.
NO!
I'M JUST LIKE MOM, WHOM I DESPISE SO MUCH.
WHAT DID I WORK SO HARD FOR?
IT'S SO I CAN BE HAPPY.
I NEED TO JUMP AT THIS OPPORTUNITY!
I NEED TO GRAB HAPPINESS ON MY OWN.
AND NO ONE CAN MAKE ME HAPPY OTHER THAN MYSELF.
I'M GOING TO BE HAPPY!
I WON'T BECOME LIKE MOM!
PRIMA DONNA
PRIMA DONNA
SATOSHI
CLUB KIKUMI
GINZA YANAGI BL
DUO
NADIA

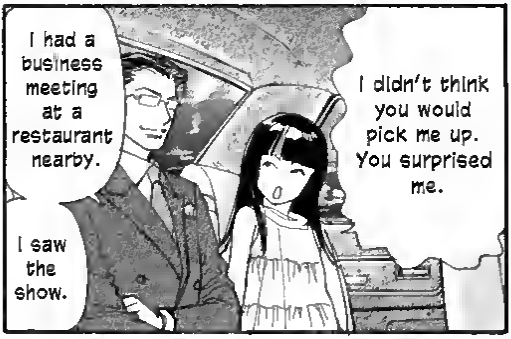

I wish. I went to the opera.
Coming this late to work... were you on a date?
Moe, you look so chic tonight.
IF IT WERE HER...
...MR. JINNO WOULD GO ON DATES.
I FELT MISERABLE COMPARING MYSELF TO HER...
...AND I THOUGHT UNLESS I WON AGAINST HER, I WOULDN'T BE HAPPY.
YOU CAN BE HAPPY IN YOUR OWN LITTLE WORLD WITH RAN.
BUT I WON'T BE JEALOUS ANYMORE.
BANG BANG
WOO
S-1 Grand Prix entry number 5! Will she make it to the third round? It's Eiko!
GRANDPRIX S-1 GRANDPRIX
WHIRRR


But I like this one, too.
I think I like last week's song better.
SIGH
It's true that it sounds like you composed something safe.
But it's still amazing. You're like a pro.
Eiko makes it to the third round!
It looks like she could easily win this.
How about we get SRM to compete against her in the final round?

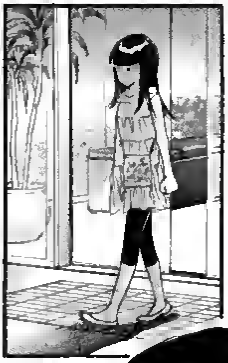
I'll come again to promote my debut, so I'll see you again then.
I forgot to tell you. I can't be on the show anymore.
I have school, so I'm going back to New York next week.
WHAT?!


CLICK
チャ!

It was great! You're getting great feed-back!
Eiko, you did it again.


I had a business meeting at a restaurant nearby.
I saw the show.
I didn't think you would pick me up. You surprised me.

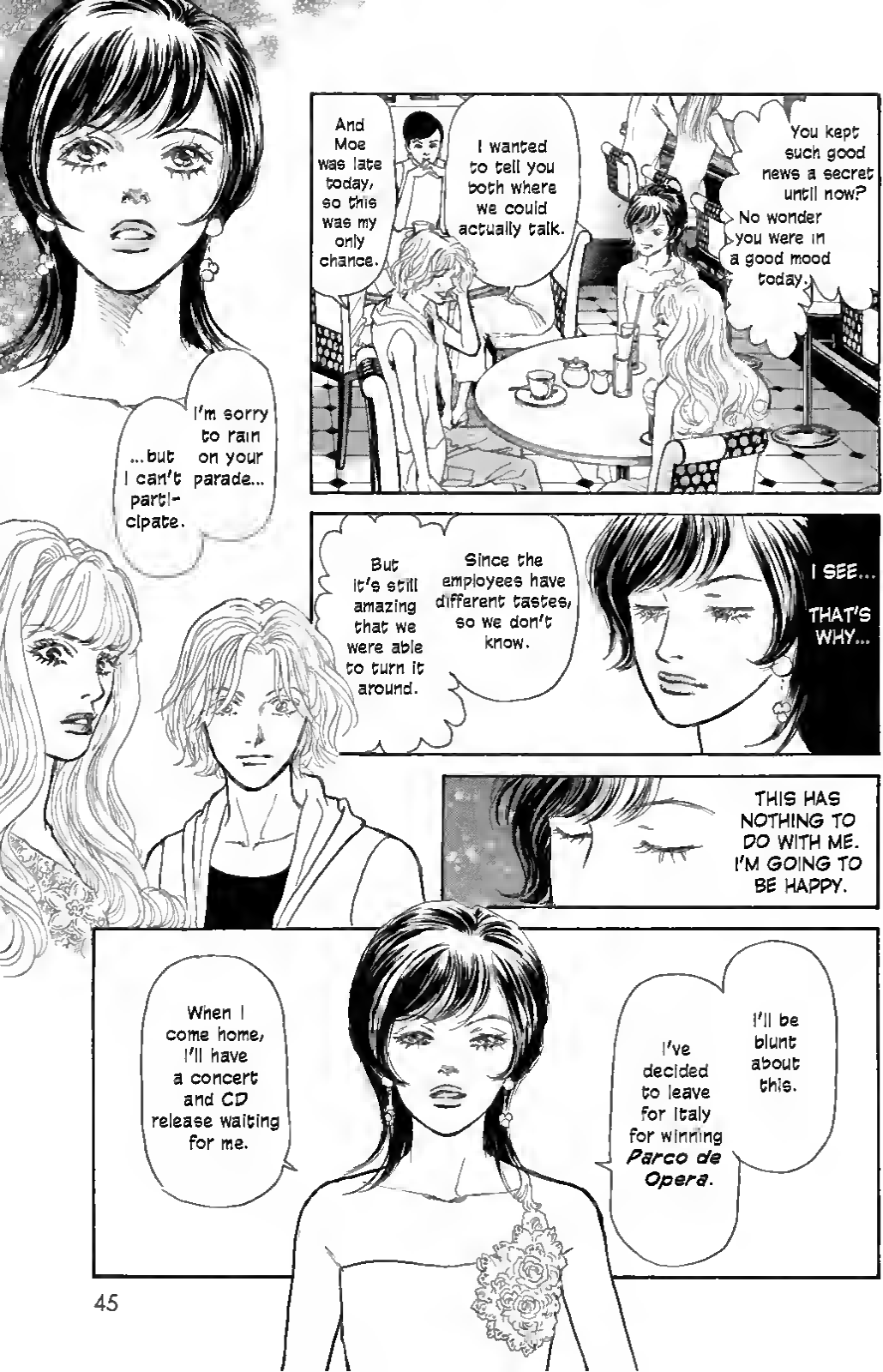
HONK
プッ
プッ!



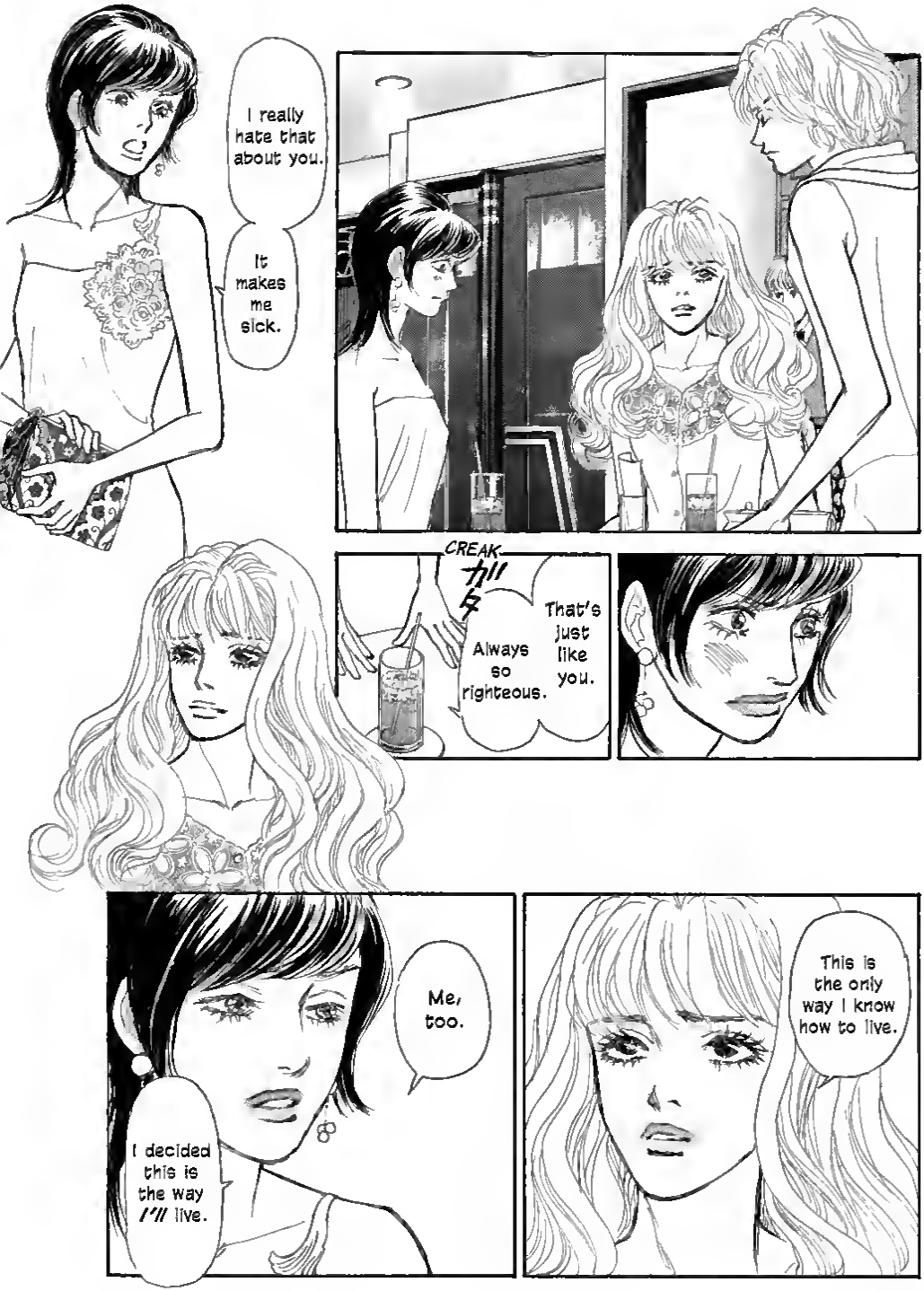
PRIDE 4

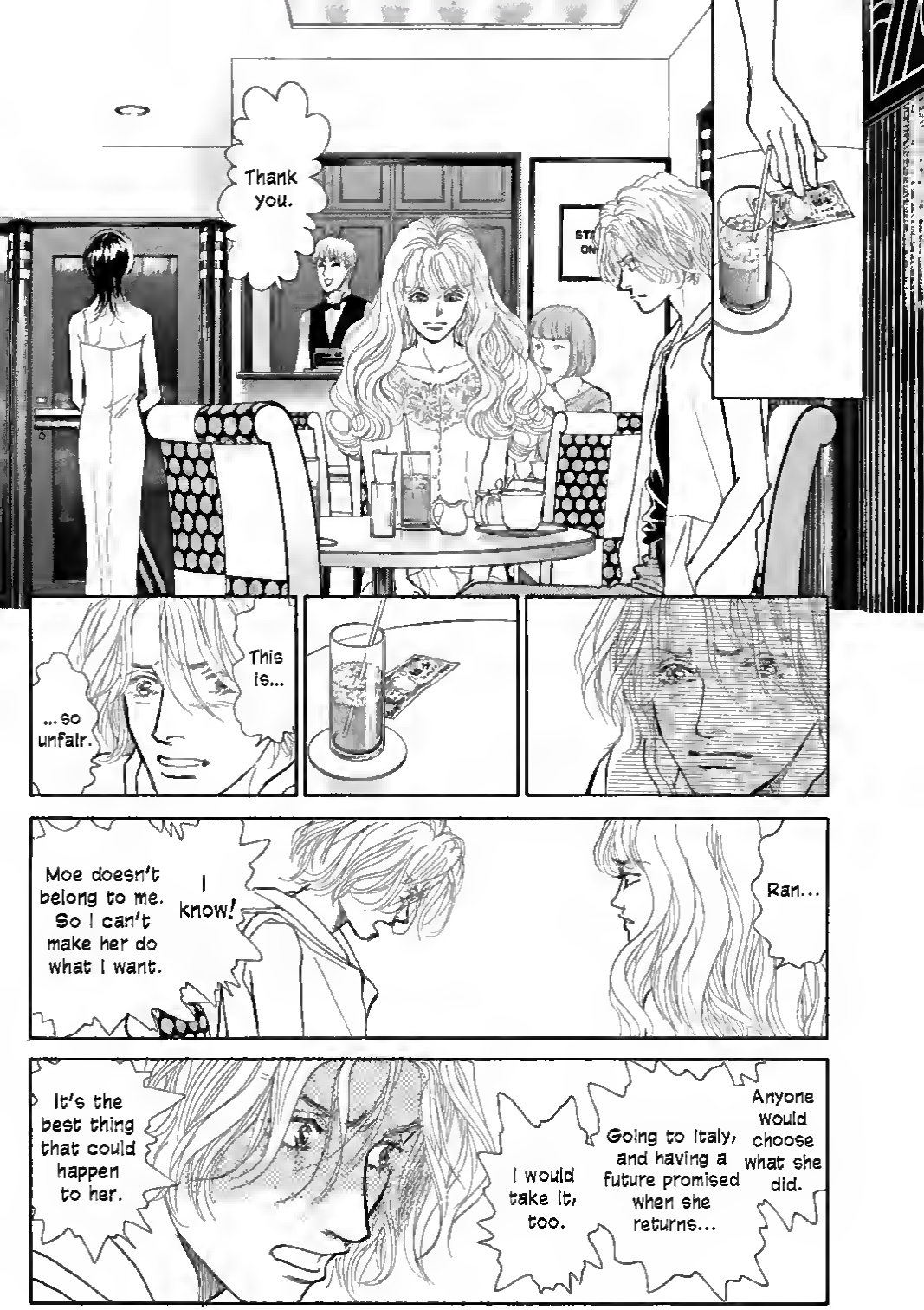
Why are you so grumpy?
I'm just tired.
Whatever. Forget that stupid show. I'm done. I'm leaving next week anyway.
Yeah?
The commercial matter will probably be settled without the employees voting, so don't worry about it.
Did you ask Shio to pull out of it for your dear half-sister?
Or else you'll break off the engagement?
Oh. It's not her?
Then you told that Moe girl.
SO I'M RIGHT.
They're all good, so it doesn't matter which one.
Well, it's good news. I wonder which song they're using.
You don't need to know what happened.
If you told her she'll get a CD release...
She looks so greedy and ambitious.

Change it to a different song!
Not that one!
What?!
It's the one you sang on that ridiculous show.
The client liked it.
B-CLUB
Ms. Azuma's influence helped split Suzaku's opinion. They decided to reconsider their original plan.
...but I thought I should let you girls know.
I didn't want to get our hopes back up only to be shot down...
So they're planning to choose what's better. Connections won't matter.
They're going to make two versions of the commercial and they're going to have the employees vote.
Really?
That's amazing!


I'm sorry to rain on your parade...
...but I can't partici-pate.
And Moe was late today, so this was my only chance.
I wanted to tell you both where we could actually talk.
You kept such good news a secret until now?
No wonder you were in a good mood today.
But it's still amazing that we were able to turn it around.
Since the employees have different tastes, so we don't know.
I SEE...
THAT'S WHY...
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME. I'M GOING TO BE HAPPY.
When I come home, I'll have a concert and CD release waiting for me.
I've decided to leave for Italy for winning Parco de Opera.
I'll be blunt about this.

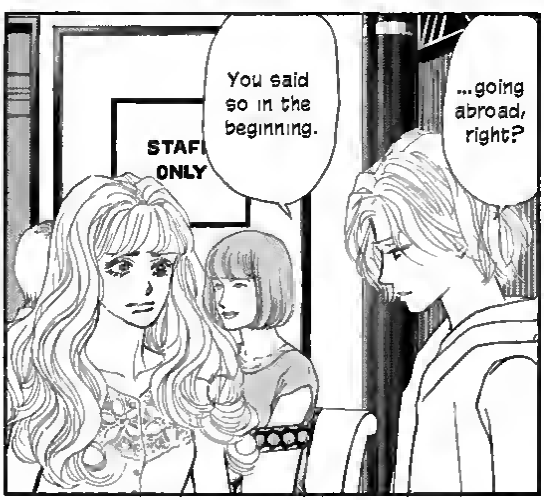
Of course I do!
What the hell?!
We worked so hard...!
Ran!
Yes. Do you have a problem?
Mr. Jinno pulled some strings, eh?
It's Moe's...
...decision.

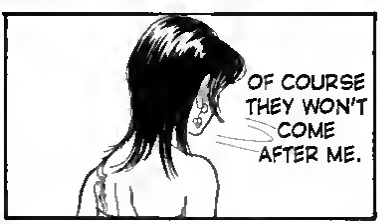

I really hate that about you.
It makes me sick.
CREAK
カリ
Always so righteous.
That's just like you.
Me, too.
I decided this is the way I'll live.
This is the only way I know how to live.


Thank you.
This is...
...so unfair.
Ran...
I know!
Moe doesn't belong to me. So I can't make her do what I want.
Anyone would choose what she did.
Going to Italy, and having a future promised when she returns...
I would take it, too.
It's the best thing that could happen to her.

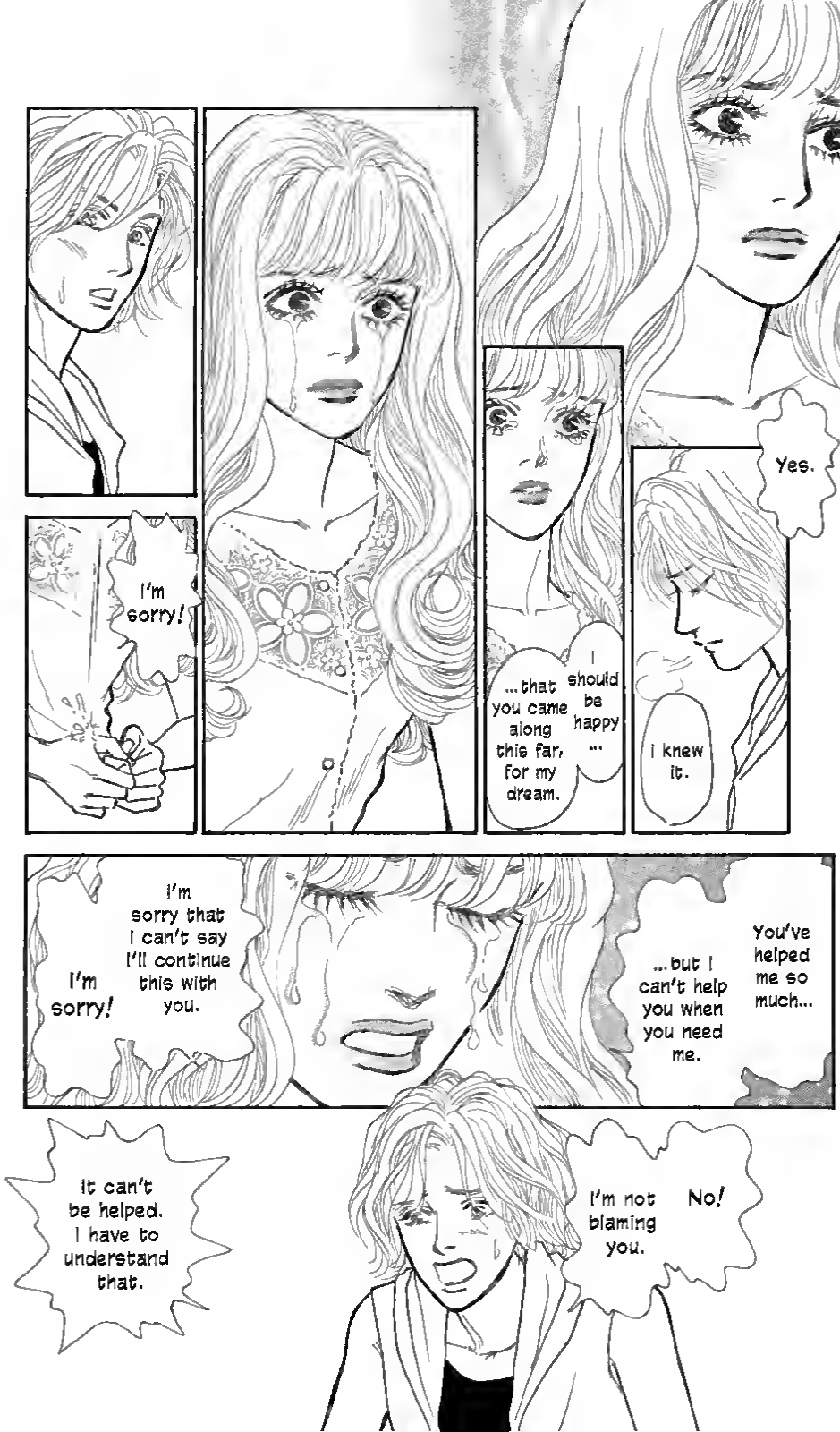
PRIDE 4

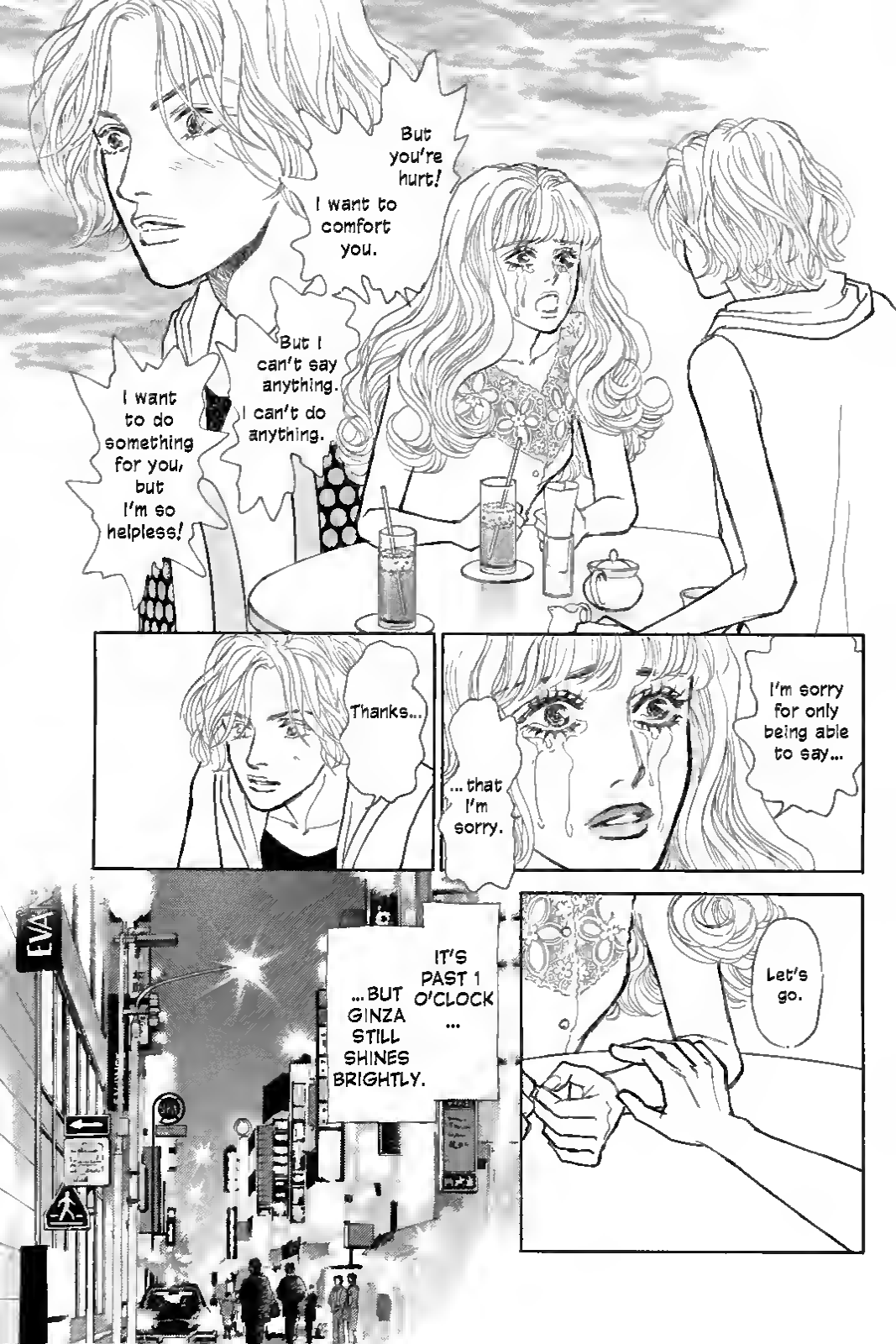
B-CLUB


You said so in the beginning.
...going abroad, right?
STAFF ONLY


OF COURSE THEY WON'T COME AFTER ME.

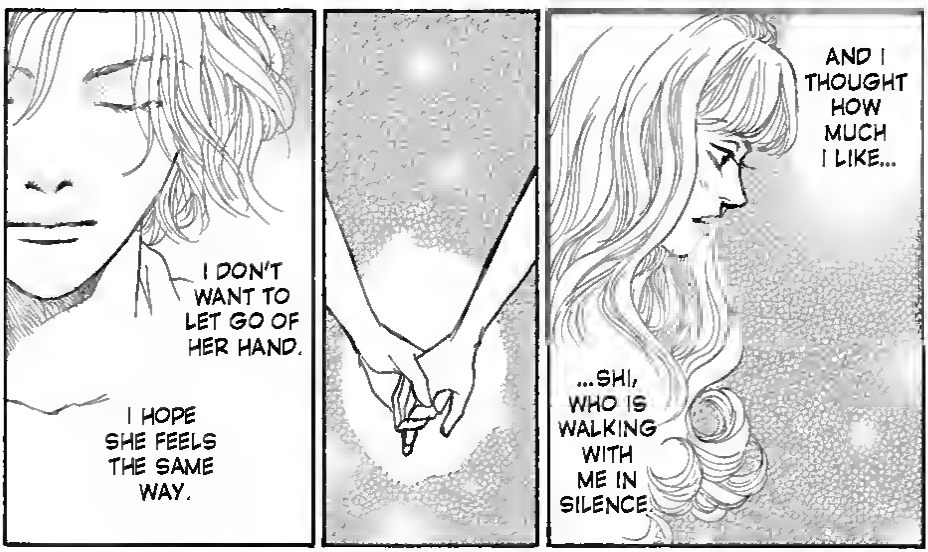
And you're also...

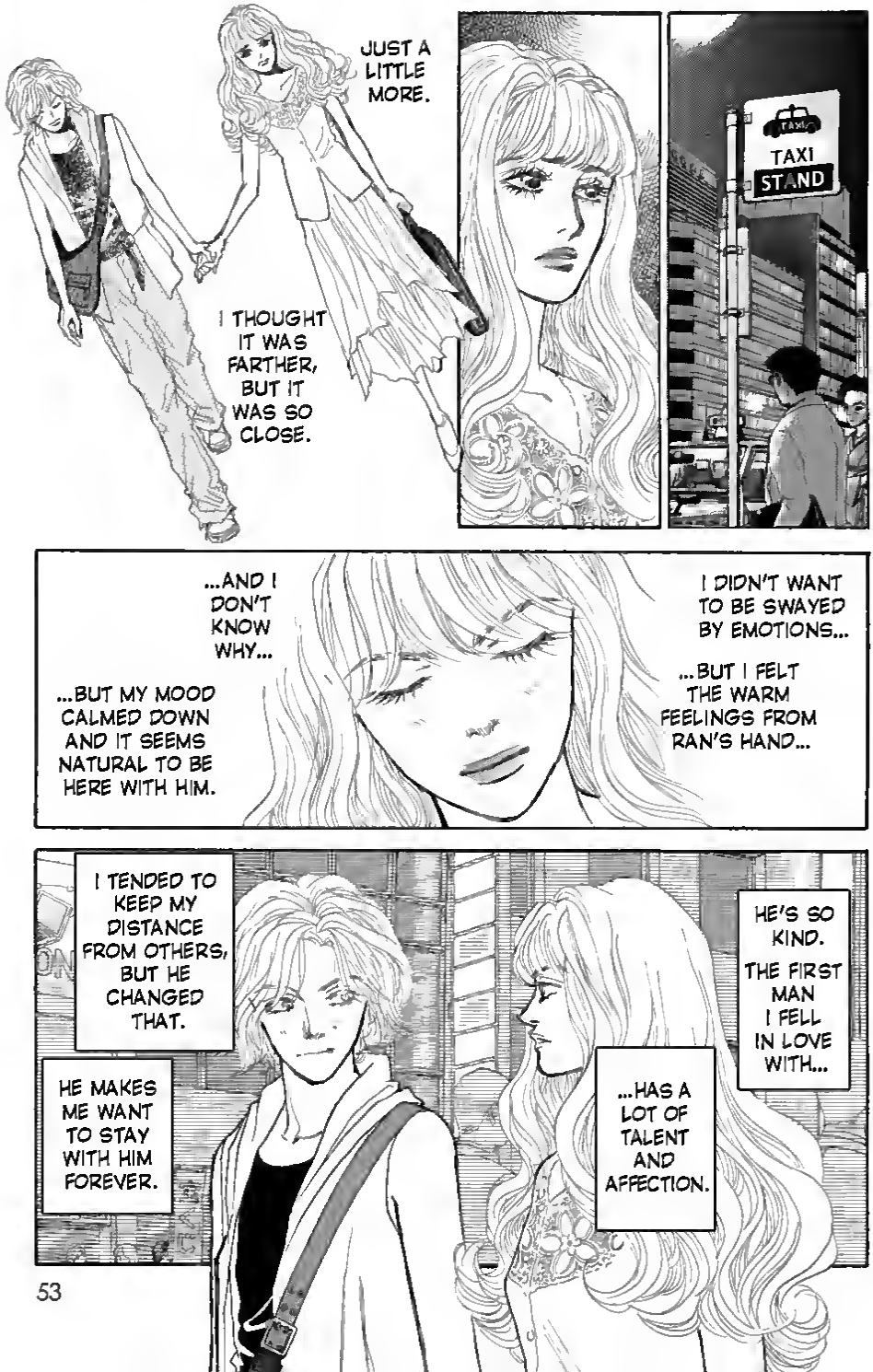

Yes.
I knew it.
I should be happy ...
...that you came along this far, for my dream.
I'm sorry!
I'm sorry that I can't say I'll continue this with you.
I'm sorry!
You've helped me so much...
...but I can't help you when you need me.
No!
I'm not blaming you.
It can't be helped. I have to understand that.


But you're hurt!
I want to comfort you.
But I can't say anything.
I can't do anything.
I want to do something for you, but I'm so helpless!
Thanks...
I'm sorry for only being able to say...
...that I'm sorry.
Let's go.
IT'S PAST 1 O'CLOCK ...
...BUT GINZA STILL SHINES BRIGHTLY.
EVA

...SHI AND I ARE AWKWARDLY HOLDING HANDS, WALKING TO THE TAXI STAND.
AMONG THE SCENERY I'M USED TO SEEING...
AND MEN WHO PASS BY, BAD-MOUTHING THEIR BOSSES.
THERE ARE HOSTESSES SEEING OFF CUSTOMERS.

...HOW WE MUST BE IN EVERYONE'S WAY.
I CALMED DOWN ENOUGH TO START THINKING...
THE UNNATURAL DISTANCE BETWEEN US IS TO BE EXPECTED FROM SHI.


I DON'T WANT TO LET GO OF HER HAND.
I HOPE SHE FEELS THE SAME WAY.
AND I THOUGHT HOW MUCH I LIKE...
...SHI, WHO IS WALKING WITH ME IN SILENCE.


JUST A LITTLE MORE.
I THOUGHT IT WAS FARTHER, BUT IT WAS SO CLOSE.
TAXI STAND
...AND I DON'T KNOW WHY...
I DIDN'T WANT TO BE SWAYED BY EMOTIONS...
...BUT I FELT THE WARM FEELINGS FROM RAN'S HAND...
...BUT MY MOOD CALMED DOWN AND IT SEEMS NATURAL TO BE HERE WITH HIM.
I TENDED TO KEEP MY DISTANCE FROM OTHERS, BUT HE CHANGED THAT.
HE MAKES ME WANT TO STAY WITH HIM FOREVER.
HE'S SO KIND.
THE FIRST MAN I FELL IN LOVE WITH...
...HAS A LOT OF TALENT AND AFFECTION.

Thanks for stopping me.
I almost hit Moe.
Thanks.
I'm OK now.
...I WOULD HAVE KNOWN THIS SOONER.
IF I HAD JUMPED IN WITHOUT BEING SCARED...
You helped me a lot.
Thanks for healing me.
Thanks for crying for me.
I want to awaken the talent sleeping inside of me.
I'll compose more great pieces.
I'm self-centered, so I recover fast.
Don't worry. I won't be dejected.

Just as you want to be proud of the songs you sing...

...I want to be proud of my music.

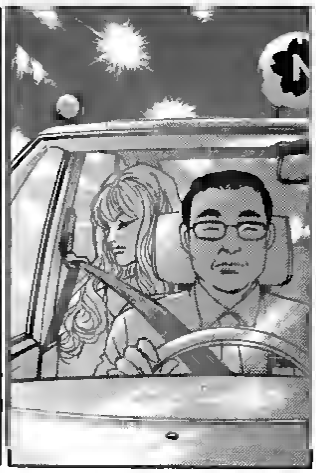
Until then, I'll keep working hard.

WE CAN'T BE MAD AT MOE OR MR. JINNO.

JUST AS OUR VALUES ARE DIFFERENT...

...IT CAN'T BE HELPED THAT OUR WAYS OF THINKING AND HOW WE ACT ARE DIFFERENT.

GOOD LUCK.

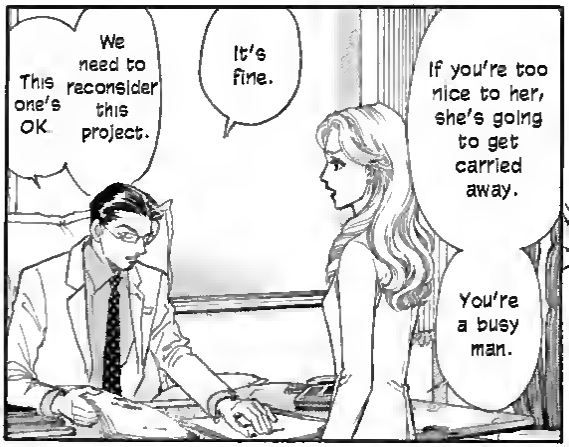


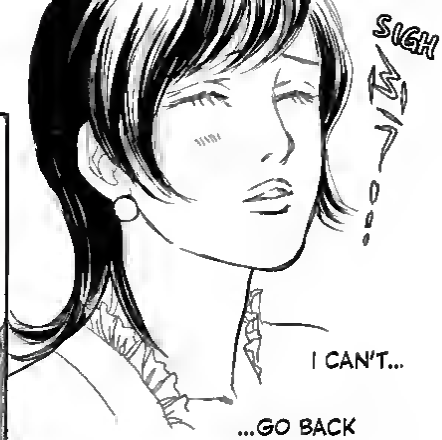
IT'S JUST...

...SAD THAT SRM WILL END LIKE THIS.

WE CHASE AFTER RAN'S PIANO...
...BLENDING, THEN SEPARATING.
IT AWAKENED THE JOY OF SINGING.
THAT MUSIC WAS OUR MIRACLE.
SOMETHING WE CAN'T MAKE IF ONE OF US IS GONE.
MUSIC MADE US ONE.
I DON'T WANT TO FORGET...
...THAT EXCITEMENT.
You're smart.
I knew you would agree.
Queen Record

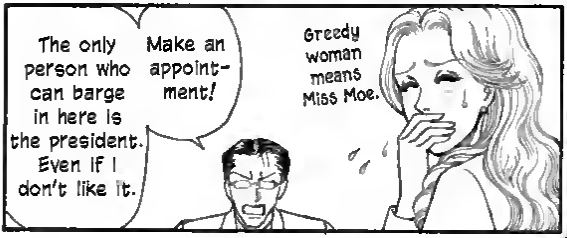
I'll leave it to Arimori, so let her know if you have any preferences.
We need to set up your study abroad immediately.
Excuse me.
Thank you.
Have you eaten lunch?
OK.
First, I would like you to obtain a passport.
I will prepare the necessary documents immediately.
I usually eat lunch late.
Huh?
Not yet.
Then wait for me in the lobby.
OK!

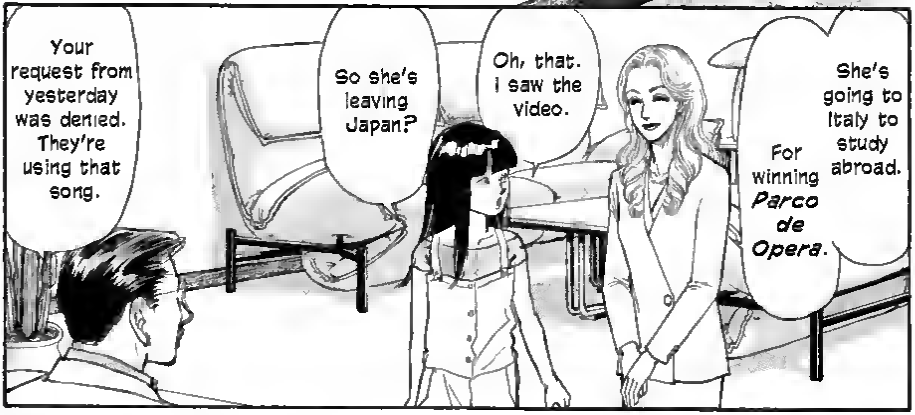

This one's OK.
We need to reconsider this project.
It's fine.
If you're too nice to her, she's going to get carried away.
You're a busy man.


SIGH
I CAN'T...
...GO BACK NOW.

CLICK
She learned club lingo.
Are you escorting her tonight?
I saw the greedy woman on the elevator.

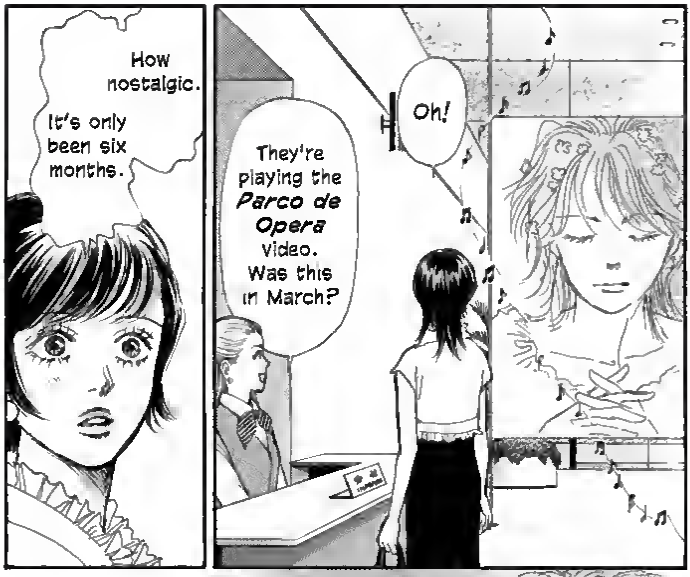
MY NEW LIFE BEGINS TODAY.

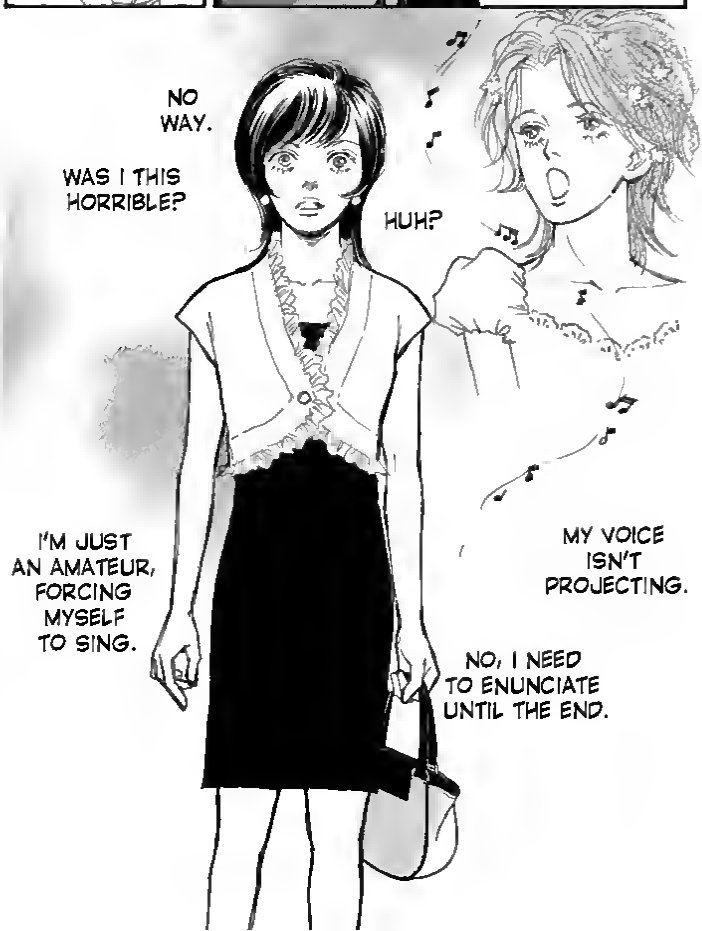

The only person who can barge in here is the president. Even if I don't like it.
Make an appointment!
Greedy woman means Miss Moe.


Your request from yesterday was denied. They're using that song.
So she's leaving Japan?
Oh, that. I saw the video.
She's going to Italy to study abroad.
For winning Parco de Opera.

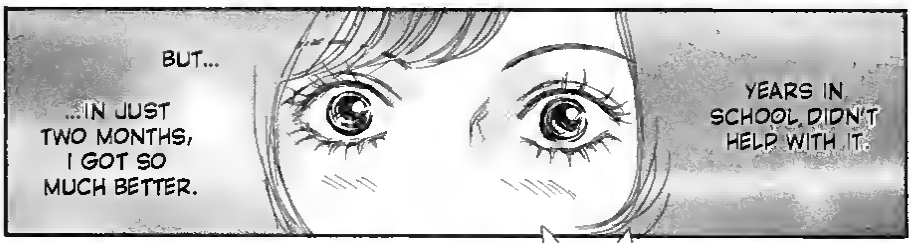
That's not my song!
You composed it. And you're singing it.
Suzaku likes that one.
No! Choose a different song!
The song is yours. There's no problem.
No.
.....
DON'T BE SUCH A BABY!
If you don't want to use that song...
...then compose a song that Suzaku would prefer, immediately.

No.
It's wrong.
If you want to keep your pride, then show what you're capable of.
Or else, you're just being selfish.
She's too spoiled.
SLAM!!!!
Moe!
Perfect timing.
Only by using my own song could I keep my pride!


How nostalgic.
It's only been six months.
They're playing the *Parco de Opera* video. Was this in March?
Oh!


NO WAY.
WAS I THIS HORRIBLE?
HUH?
I'M JUST AN AMATEUR, FORCING MYSELF TO SING.
MY VOICE ISN'T PROJECTING.
NO, I NEED TO ENUNCIATE UNTIL THE END.

RAN'S ADVICE AND SHIO'S TECHNIQUE PULLED ME UP.
AND I HAVE THE FUNDAMENTALS DOWN.
I'VE IMPROVED SO MUCH.
I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE TO SHIO, AND PRACTICED SO HARD.

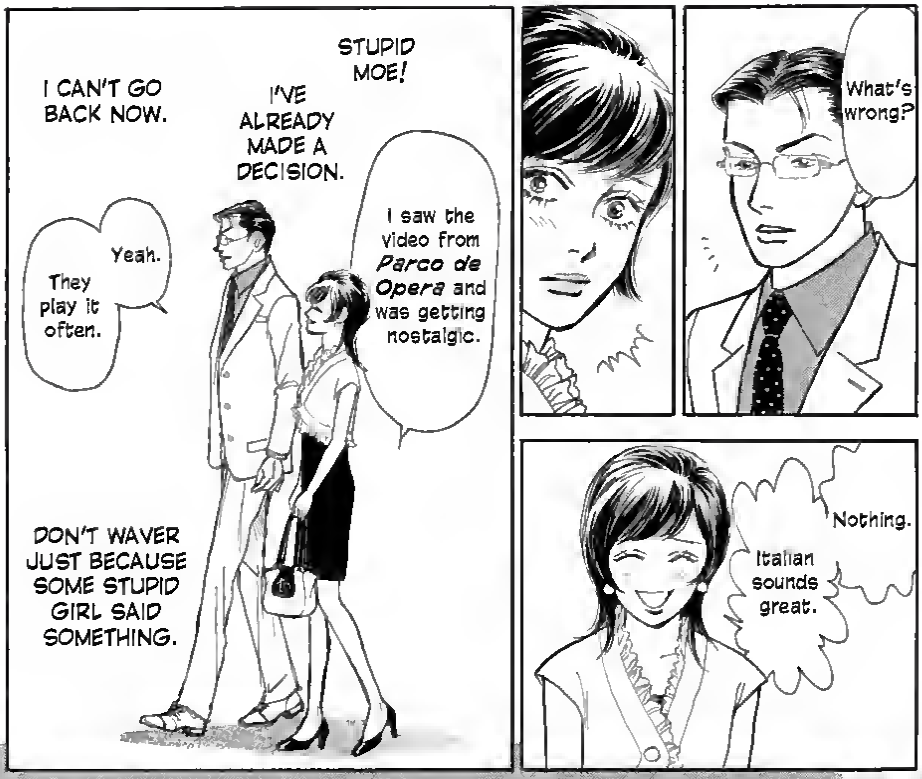

BUT...
...IN JUST TWO MONTHS, I GOT SO MUCH BETTER.
YEARS IN SCHOOL DIDN'T HELP WITH IT.

Stupid Takashi! Go to hell!
I know!
I know!
If you want to keep your pride, then show what you're capable of.

I heard you're going to Italy.

I would never let go of those two.
You're an idiot, throwing your talent away.
You don't know what you're doing.
What you're doing now is way better than opera.
Sorry to make you wait.
You're gonna regret this.
TAP
TAP
TAP

You're an idiot, throwing your talent away.
I would never let go of those two.
Is Italian food OK?
There's a restaurant nearby that makes great pasta.
TALENT?
MY TALENT?
I'M GOING TO REGRET THIS?


I CAN'T GO BACK NOW.
I'VE ALREADY MADE A DECISION.
STUPID MOE!
I saw the video from *Parco de Opera* and was getting nostalgic.
Yeah. They play it often.
DON'T WAVER JUST BECAUSE SOME STUPID GIRL SAID SOMETHING.
What's wrong?
Nothing.
Italian sounds great.

I CAN FOCUS ON MY SINGING WITHOUT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT JOBS OR BILLS.
IF I WORK HARD, I CAN IMPROVE IN JUST TWO MONTHS.
THAT MEANS IF I GO TO ITALY AND AM INFLUENCED BY OTHERS, I'LL IMPROVE EVEN MORE.
IT'S THE LIFE I'VE DREAMED OF.

So you're finally leaving for Italy?
My salon appointment is at 6, so we have 20 more minutes.
Thank you for taking the time for me.
TOGETSU
TEA ROO
Make sure to say good-bye to the customers who treated you well.
I don't want you to leave, but there's nothing I can do about it.
I was wondering about that.
Yes. You have to be proper until the end.
And to those who can't make it, I'll give them a call.
Yes.
I'll continue working until the end of this week.

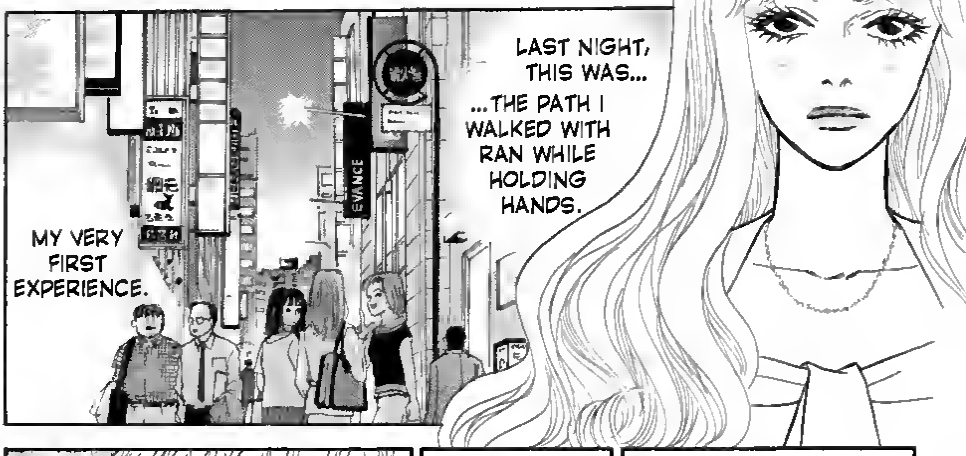
Which do *you* think?
Mama...
CLINK
カタッ
The songs I sing now and opera...
...which do you think suits me better?
Huh?
Are you having second thoughts about studying abroad?
...I...
Well...
Then...
...there's no point in asking that.
カタッ!
CLINK
I've already decided.
No!

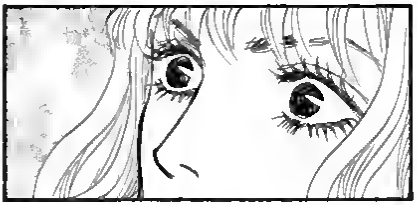
PRIDE 4

You'll struggle because you have more competitiveness than the desire to improve yourself.
You feel happier when you compare yourself to others.
Yes. I'm sure there will be many students like Shio with a lot of spirit abroad.
...I'm worried if I'll be OK there.
Yes, but...
But even if you feel good by comparing yourself to others, you can't achieve happiness that way.
No. That's why you work hard, and you have willpower.
IRRITATED
Is that wrong?
Are you...
...telling me to be more like Shio?
Fighting others will only crush you.
You should be in competition with yourself.

You girls would be perfect if you combined and split into two.
She's practically a saint.
She doesn't have enough competitiveness.
If I'm not acknowledged, there's no point in working hard!
The way others feel about me is more important than how I feel.
SIGH, HE'S GOING TO BE WHINING FOR A LONG TIME.
MY SON WOULD BE DEVASTATED, TOO.
TAXI STAND
Thank you for your time!
GAGA
CREAK
I won't be crushed! I'll succeed and come back to Japan!
SHE WOULD BE FUMING IF SHE FOUND OUT ABOUT SHIO AND MR. JINNO'S ENGAGEMENT.
IT'S GOOD SHE'S LEAVING.

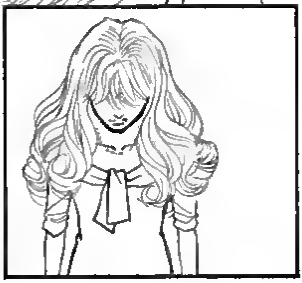
PRIDE 4

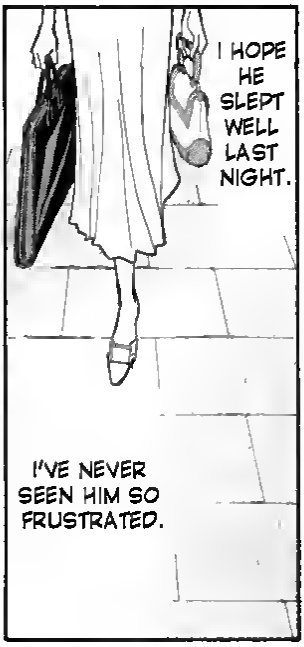

LAST NIGHT, THIS WAS...
...THE PATH I WALKED WITH RAN WHILE HOLDING HANDS.
MY VERY FIRST EXPERIENCE.
EVANCE

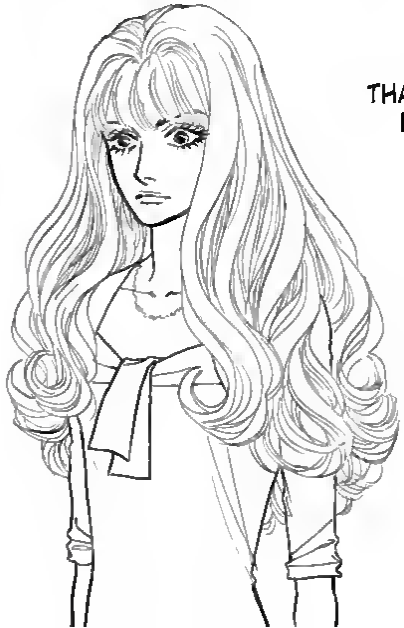


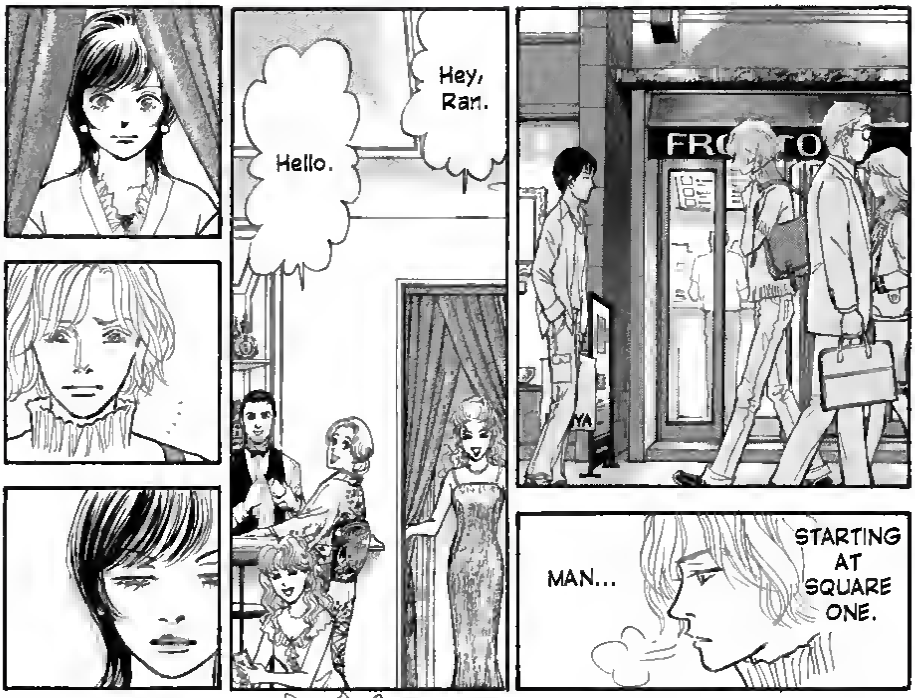
COMPLETE CREATION ...

IF WE ONLY HAD MORE TIME.
JUST WHEN OUR MUSIC BECAME A COMPLETE CREATION, THIS HAPPENED.




I HOPE HE SLEPT WELL LAST NIGHT.
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM SO FRUSTRATED.


THAT'S IT!

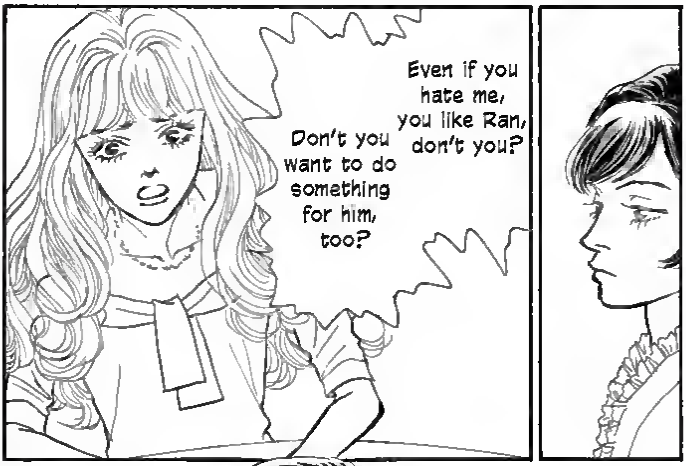

Hey, Ran.
Hello.
MAN...
STARTING AT SQUARE ONE.

URGH...
I'm so narrow-minded.
She's leaving anyway, so just get over it and be friendly!
Hey.
Hello.
THUMP

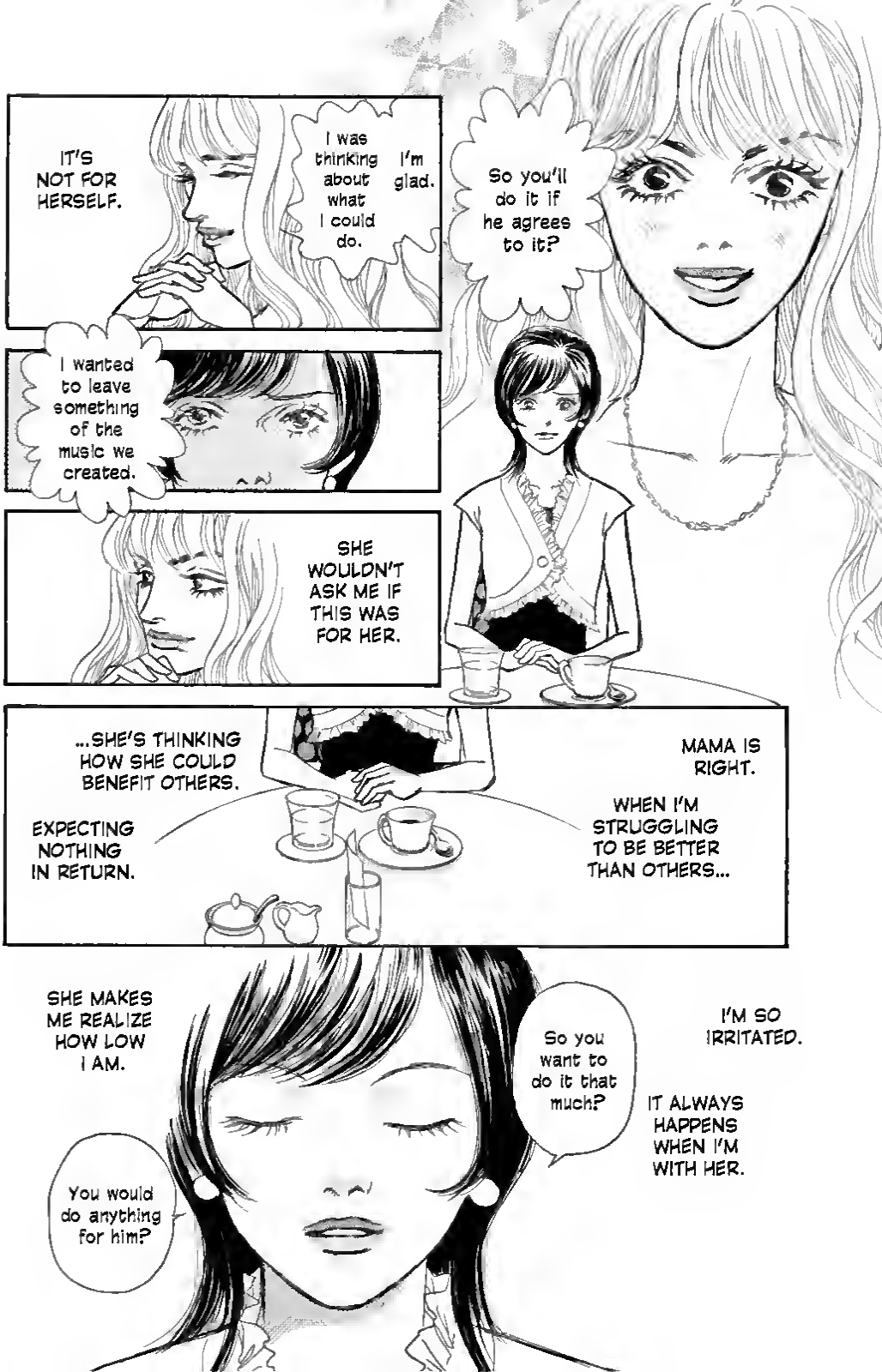
I want to talk to you.
Could I have some of your time later?
Hi!
Hey, Shio.
Hello.
Moe.
After work tonight?
Thank you.
It's something that would be beneficial to you, too.
Or did you want to complain, after all?
There's nothing more to discuss.

A mini-album?
Yes.
B-CLUB
THANK YOU?
UNBELIEVABLE. HOW COULD SHE THANK ME?
...for Ran's sake?
Is that...
I was hoping we could leave it in some sort of form.
...but it would be sad only to have performed it on TV once.
We practiced so hard to create our music...

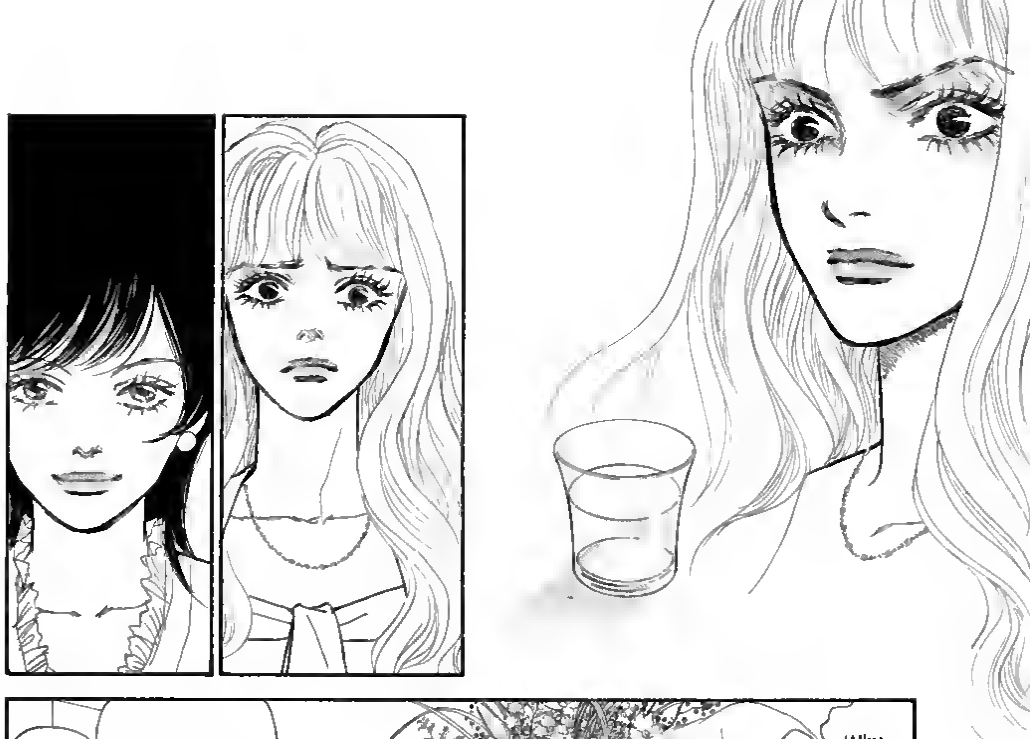
No, you're right.
If we have a CD, I'm sure it would come in handy later.
That too, but...


Even if you hate me, you like Ran, don't you?
Don't you want to do something for him, too?

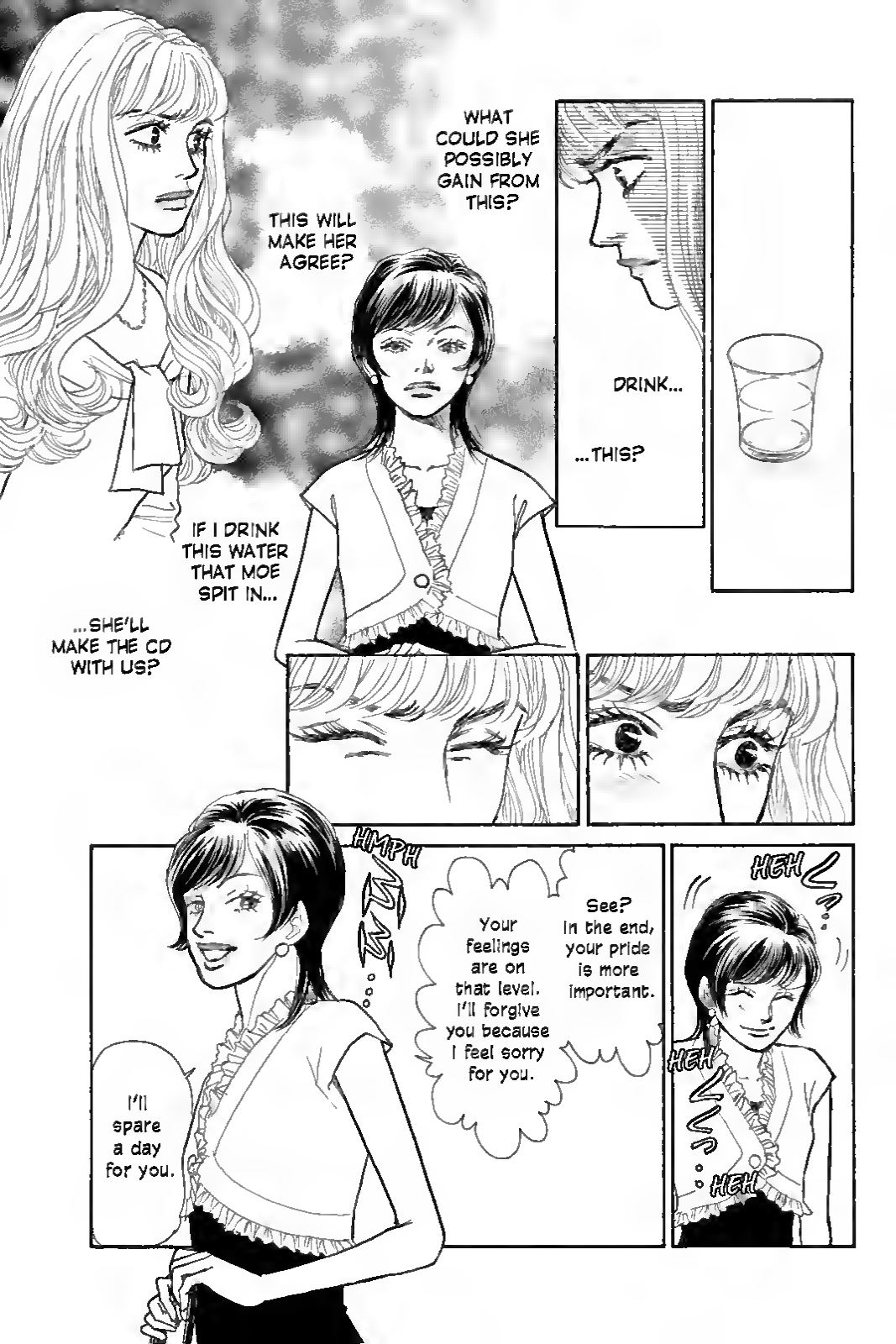
It's understandable. I'm the one who ditched you guys for my own benefit.
I do, but...
...I don't think Ran wants to see my face anymore.


IT'S NOT FOR HERSELF.
I was thinking about what I could do.
I'm glad.
So you'll do it if he agrees to it?
I wanted to leave something of the music we created.
SHE WOULDN'T ASK ME IF THIS WAS FOR HER.
...SHE'S THINKING HOW SHE COULD BENEFIT OTHERS.
EXPECTING NOTHING IN RETURN.
MAMA IS RIGHT.
WHEN I'M STRUGGLING TO BE BETTER THAN OTHERS...
SHE MAKES ME REALIZE HOW LOW I AM.
You would do anything for him?
So you want to do it that much?
I'M SO IRRITATED.
IT ALWAYS HAPPENS WHEN I'M WITH HER.

IT MAKES ME WANT TO TAINT HER.
SIP
IT
If it's something I could do.
Huh?
Well yes.
Then... I'll do it if you drink this.


You would do anything for Ran, right?
Then do this.
Why would you ask that?
I don't understand.

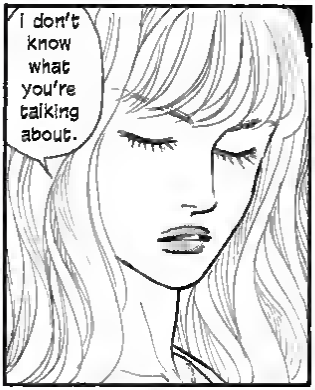
You would never understand ...
...how I feel.
Yes.
I can't comprehend...
You feel better by doing this?

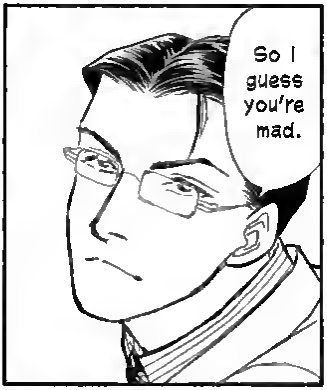

WHAT COULD SHE POSSIBLY GAIN FROM THIS?
THIS WILL MAKE HER AGREE?
DRINK...
...THIS?
IF I DRINK THIS WATER THAT MOE SPIT IN...
...SHE'LL MAKE THE CD WITH US?
HMPH
I'll spare a day for you.
Your feelings are on that level. I'll forgive you because I feel sorry for you.
See? In the end, your pride is more important.
HEH
HEH
HEH

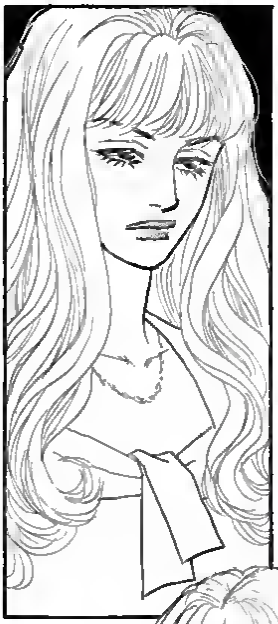
I'm not a rich girl anymore.
I live on my own, just like you.
And our singing skills aren't that different now.
Why do you...
...hate me so much?
Something tainted can only hate or admire something beautiful.
A woman who was loved...
...and admired just by standing, wouldn't understand.

I RECEIVED A BUNCH OF FLOWERS FROM THE AFTERPARTY OF BETTY'S CONCERT AND DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THEM.
IF YOU WOULD TAKE THEM, I'LL HAVE THEM DELIVERED.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE, I CAN GET TICKETS TO TOMOR-ROW'S CONCERT.
IT'S A TEXT FROM MR. JINNO.
I'M GLAD HE DIDN'T CALL.
I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO MR. JINNO RIGHT NOW.
HATE...
...OR LOOK UP TO...
BETTY IS THE PIANIST RAN LIKES.
HE WAS SAYING HER TICKETS WERE SOLD OUT.

I can go home on my own, thank you.
I'll give you a ride home.
I thought you'd be home by now. What a coincidence.


I don't know what you're talking about.


So I guess you're mad.

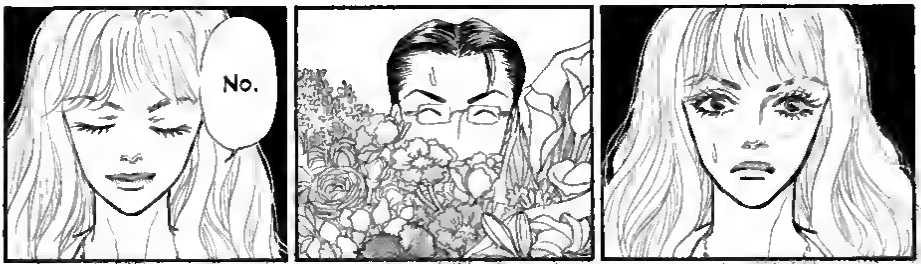


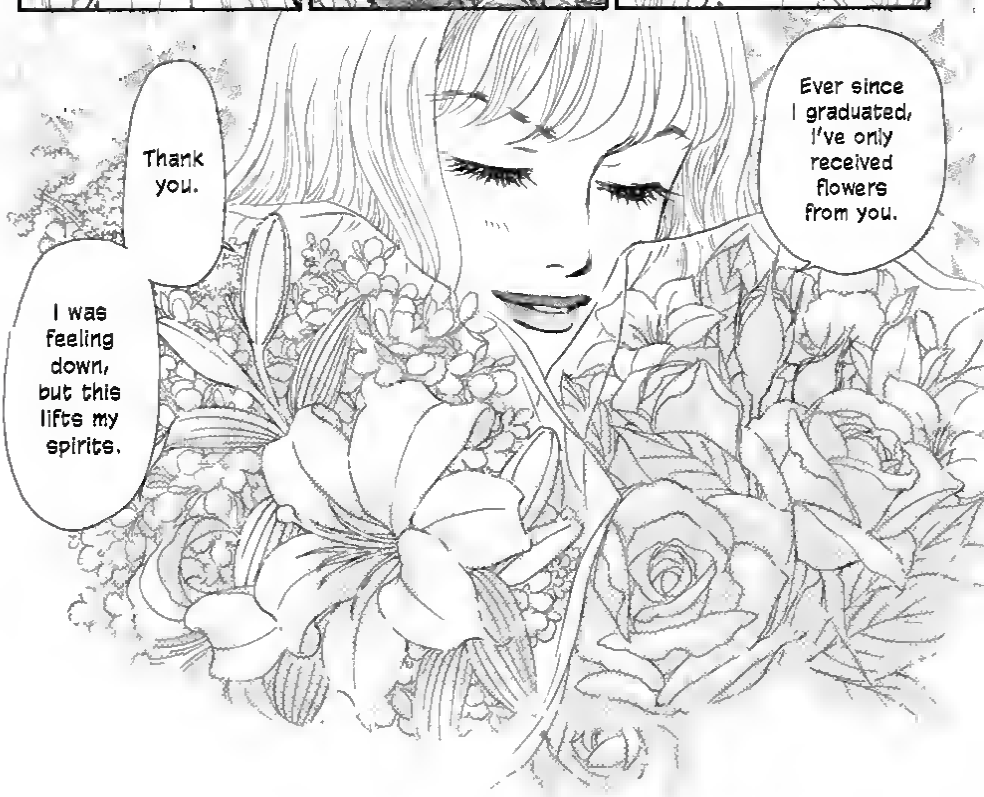
Yes, sir.
Can you open the trunk?
Sigh, how scary.

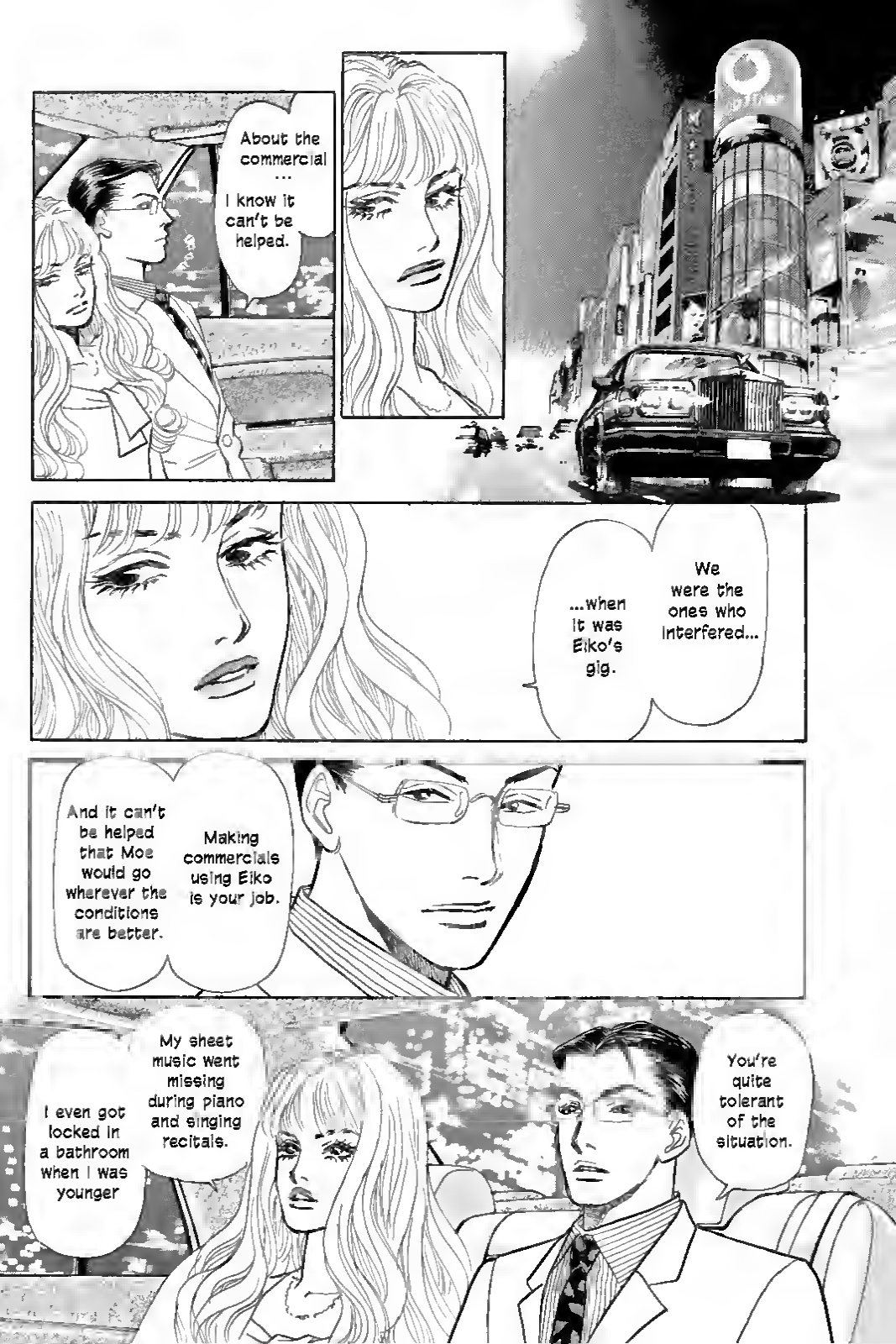
It would be impossible to get in a taxi with these, right?
...I got them for you.
I'm sorry I didn't prepare these flowers for you, but...

PRIDE 4

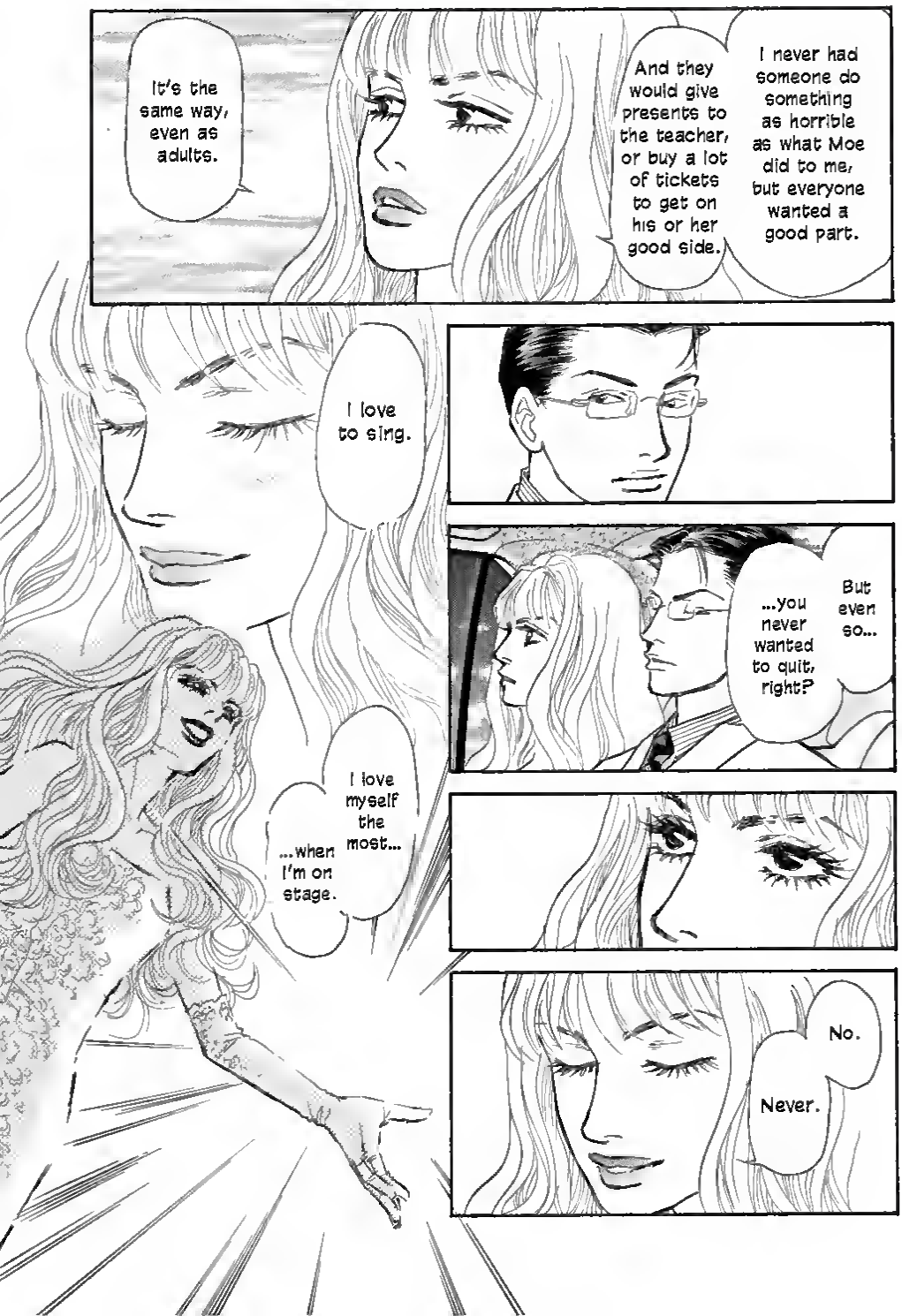
You're not moved because you're used to receiving flowers?
But I guess it doesn't work on you.
No?
I thought flowers would be best to appease an angry woman.


No.

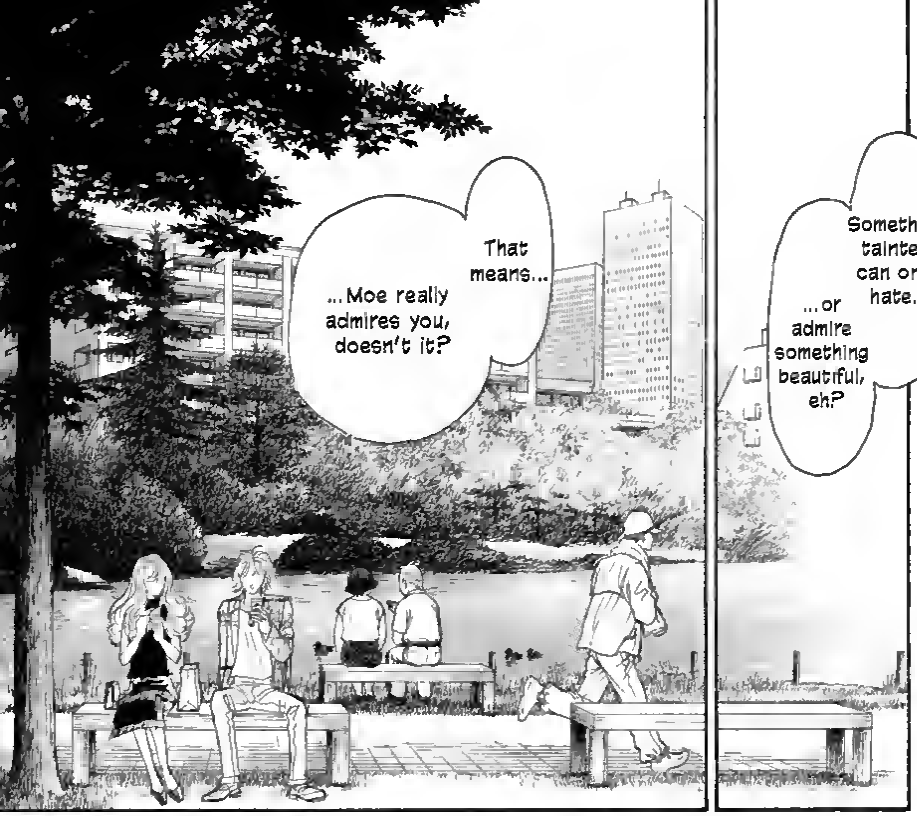

Ever since I graduated, I've only received flowers from you.
Thank you.
I was feeling down, but this lifts my spirits.

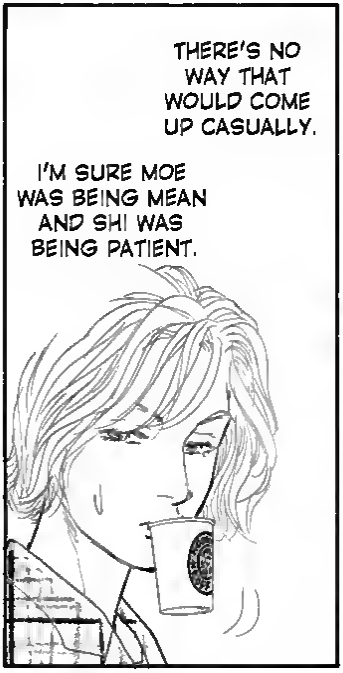

About the commercial ...
I know it can't be helped.
We were the ones who interfered...
...when it was Eiko's gig.
Making commercials using Eiko is your job.
And it can't be helped that Moe would go wherever the conditions are better.
You're quite tolerant of the situation.
My sheet music went missing during piano and singing recitals.
I even got locked in a bathroom when I was younger

PRIDE 4

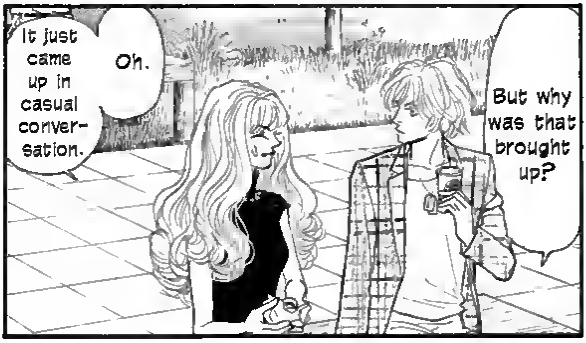

It's the same way, even as adults.
And they would give presents to the teacher, or buy a lot of tickets to get on his or her good side.
I never had someone do something as horrible as what Moe did to me, but everyone wanted a good part.
I love to sing.
...when I'm on stage.
I love myself the most...
...you never wanted to quit, right?
But even so...
No.
Never.

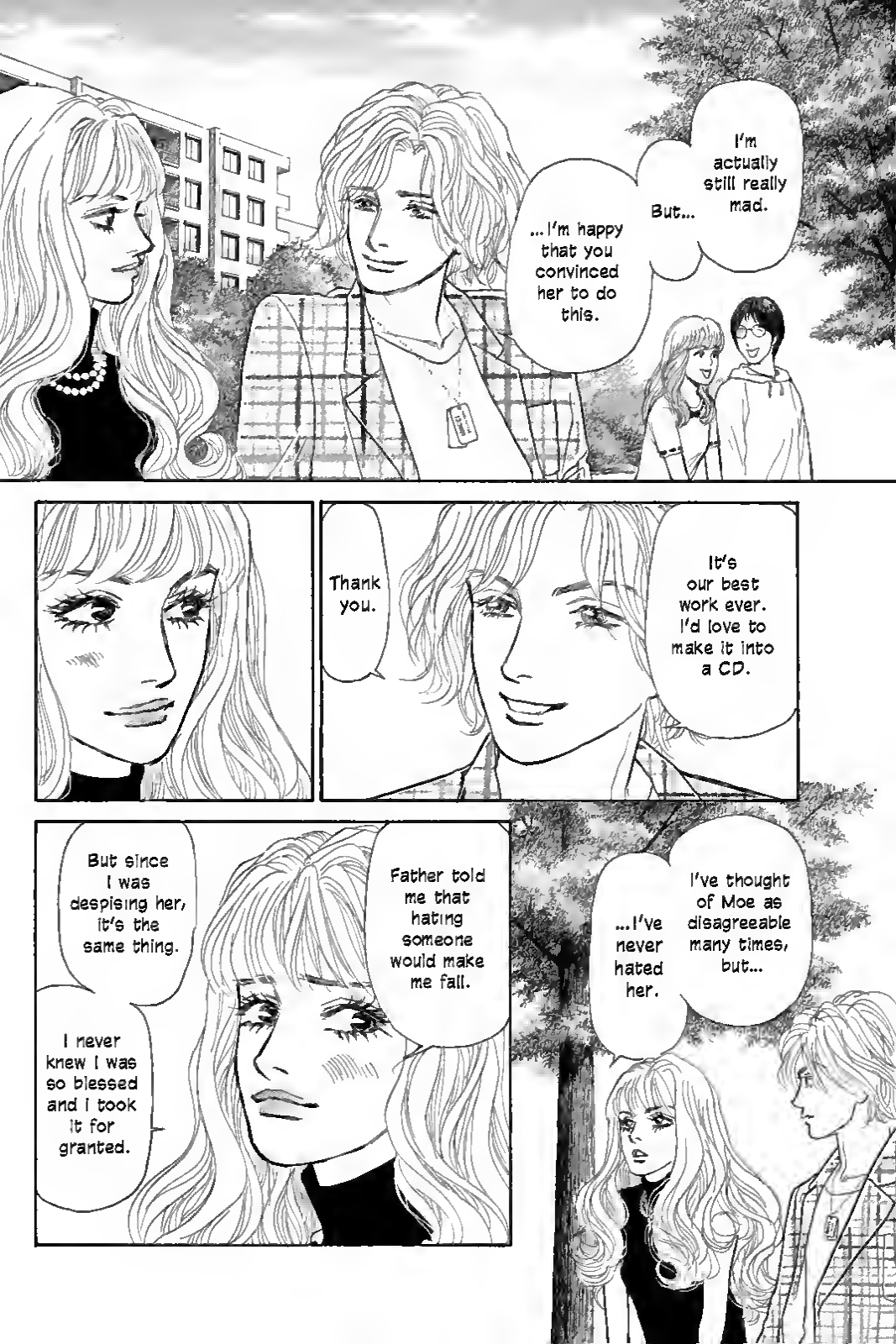
Ran and I were deeply hurt.
...being tolerant is separate from my feelings.
But...
But what you did was unpleasant.
I wouldn't say that everything is your fault.
I'll never get in the way of your singing again.
Got it.
I promise ...

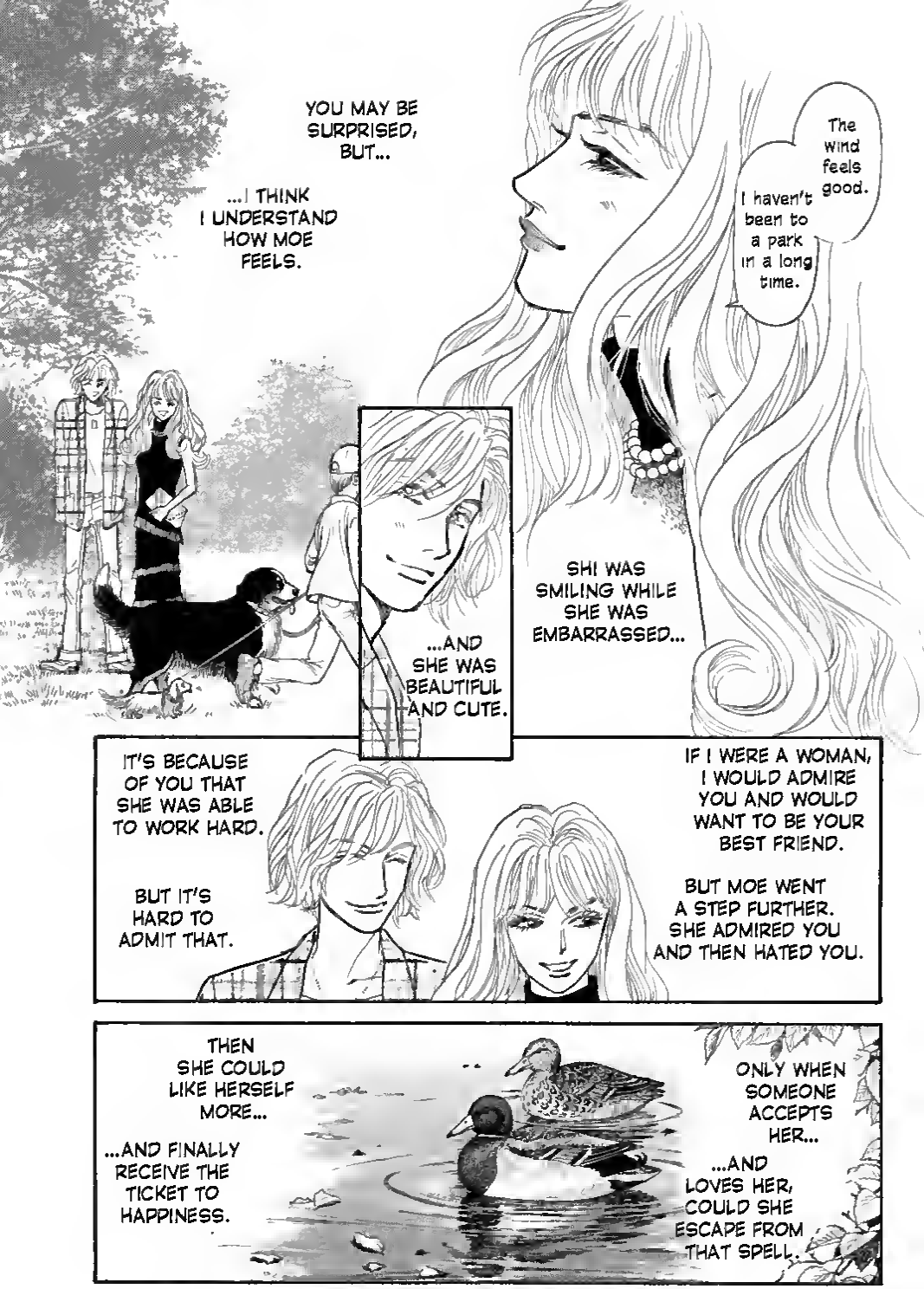

That means...
...Moe really admires you, doesn't it?
Something tainted can only hate...
...or admire something beautiful, eh?

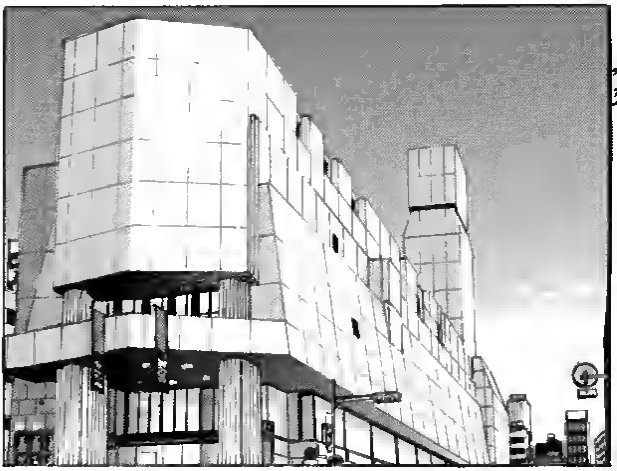

THERE'S NO WAY THAT WOULD COME UP CASUALLY.
I'M SURE MOE WAS BEING MEAN AND SHI WAS BEING PATIENT.

Hating and admiring are on opposite sides of the same coin.
Huh?
Really?


It just came up in casual conversation.
Oh.
But why was that brought up?


I'm actually still really mad.
But...
...I'm happy that you convinced her to do this.
Thank you.
It's our best work ever. I'd love to make it into a CD.
I've thought of Moe as disagreeable many times, but...
...I've never hated her.
Father told me that hating someone would make me fall.
But since I was despising her, it's the same thing.
I never knew I was so blessed and I took it for granted.

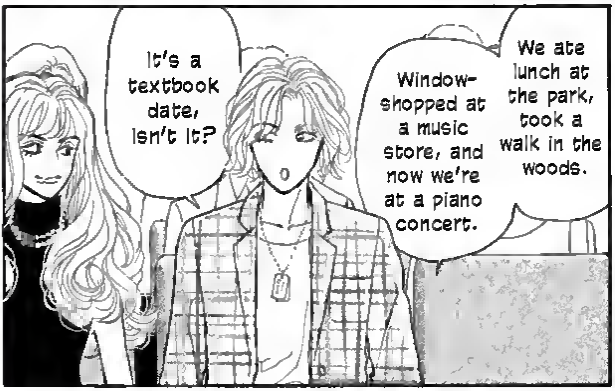

YOU MAY BE SURPRISED, BUT...
...I THINK I UNDERSTAND HOW MOE FEELS.
The wind feels good.
I haven't been to a park in a long time.
SHI WAS SMILING WHILE SHE WAS EMBARRASSED...
...AND SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL AND CUTE.
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU THAT SHE WAS ABLE TO WORK HARD.
BUT IT'S HARD TO ADMIT THAT.
IF I WERE A WOMAN, I WOULD ADMIRE YOU AND WOULD WANT TO BE YOUR BEST FRIEND.
BUT MOE WENT A STEP FURTHER. SHE ADMIRED YOU AND THEN HATED YOU.
THEN SHE COULD LIKE HERSELF MORE...
...AND FINALLY RECEIVE THE TICKET TO HAPPINESS.
ONLY WHEN SOMEONE ACCEPTS HER...
...AND LOVES HER, COULD SHE ESCAPE FROM THAT SPELL.

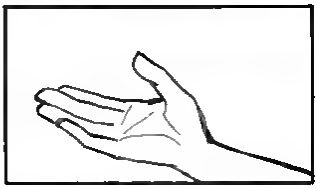


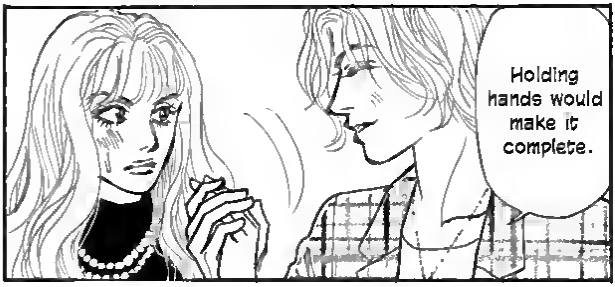
YOU'RE WORKING HARD TO BE HAPPY, RIGHT?

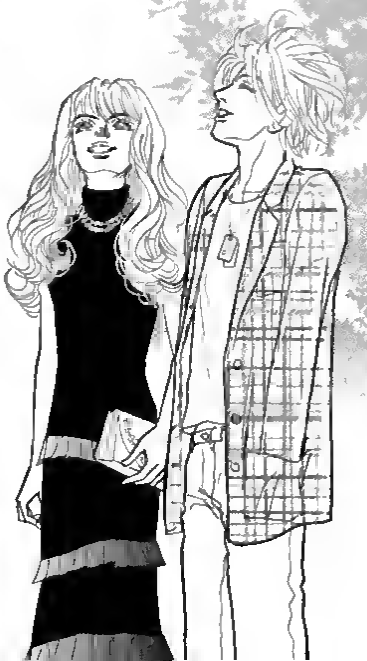
MOE, UNLESS YOU LIKE YOURSELF...

...YOU CAN'T BE HAPPY.

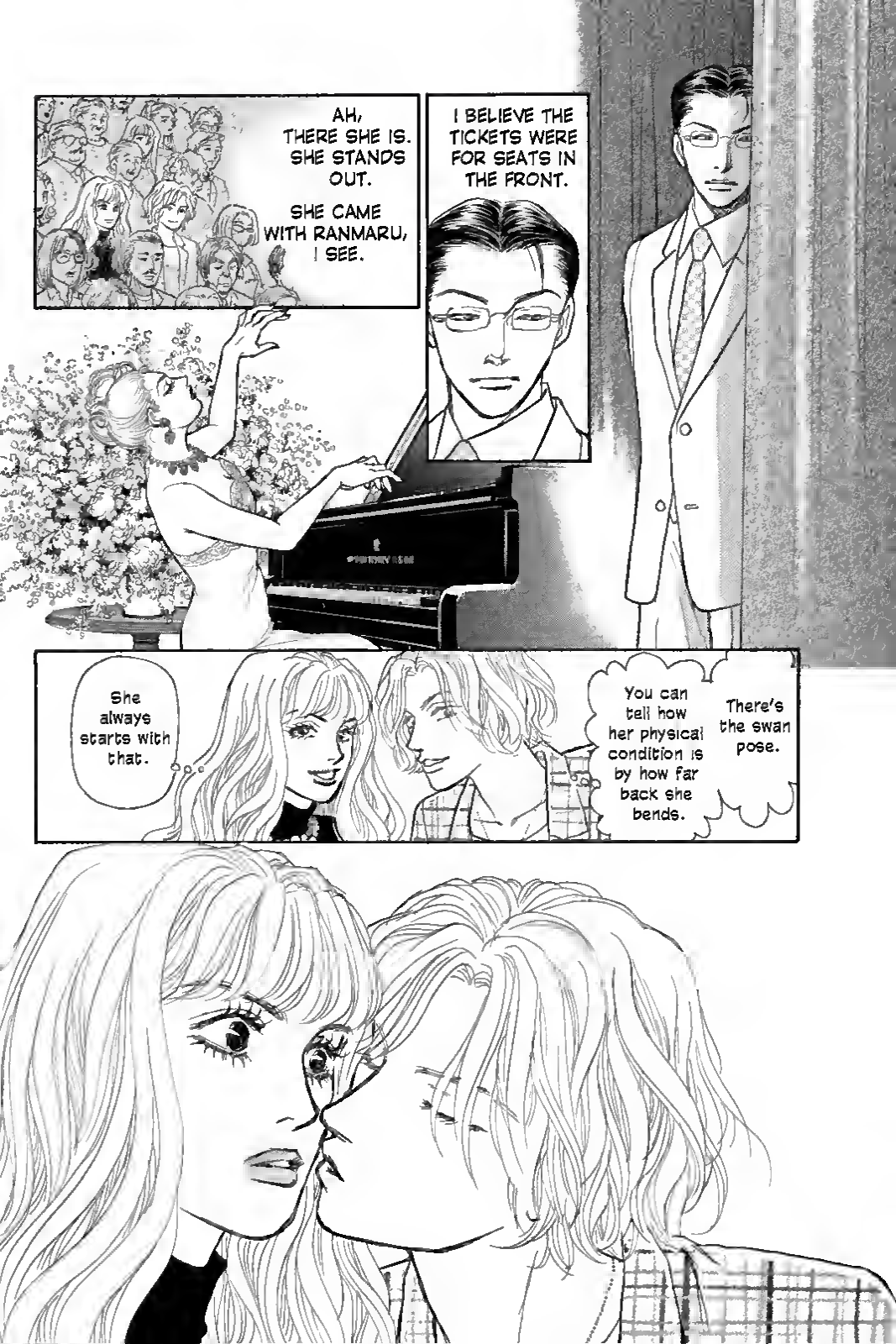

It's a textbook date, isn't it?
Window-shopped at a music store, and now we're at a piano concert.
We ate lunch at the park, took a walk in the woods.

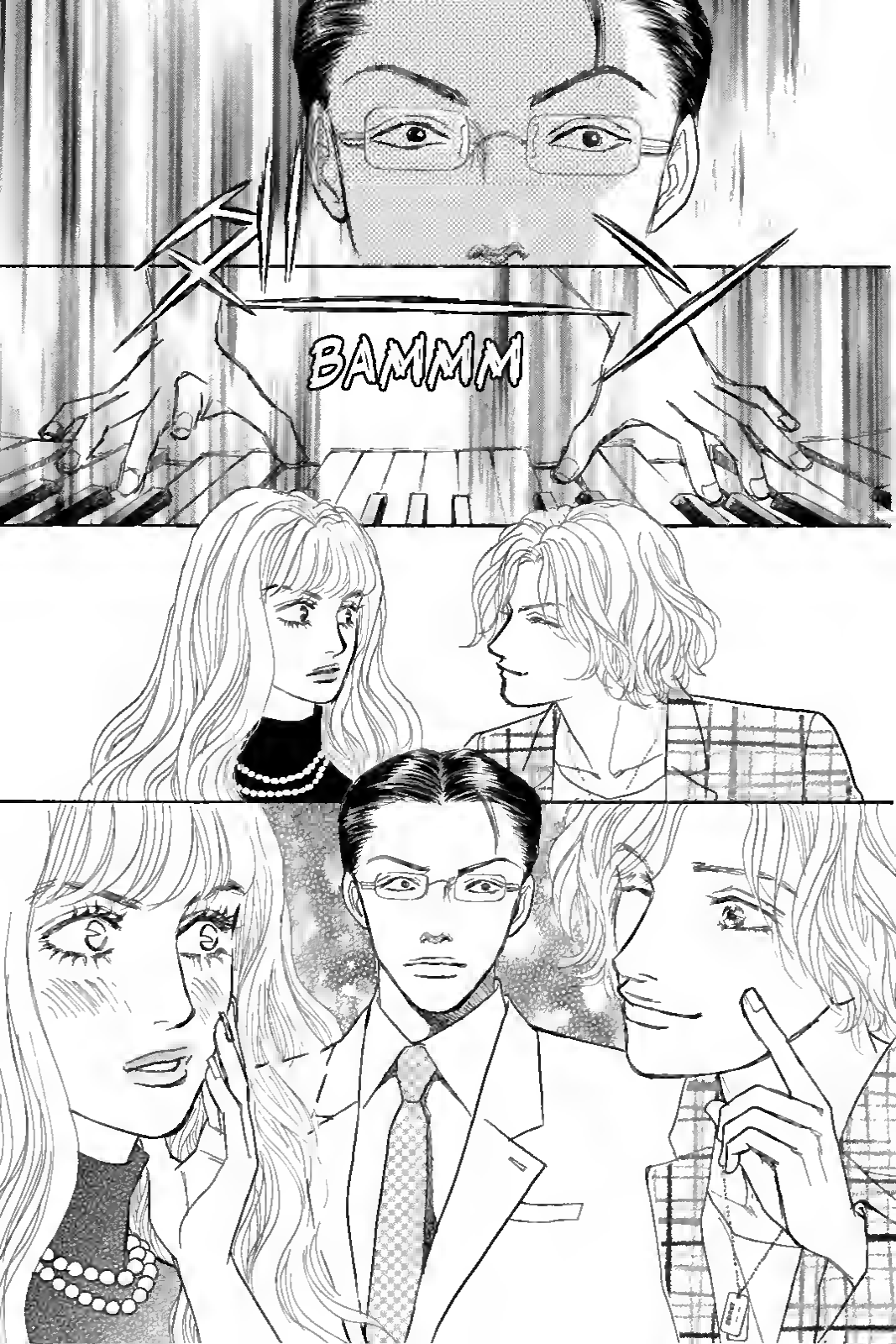






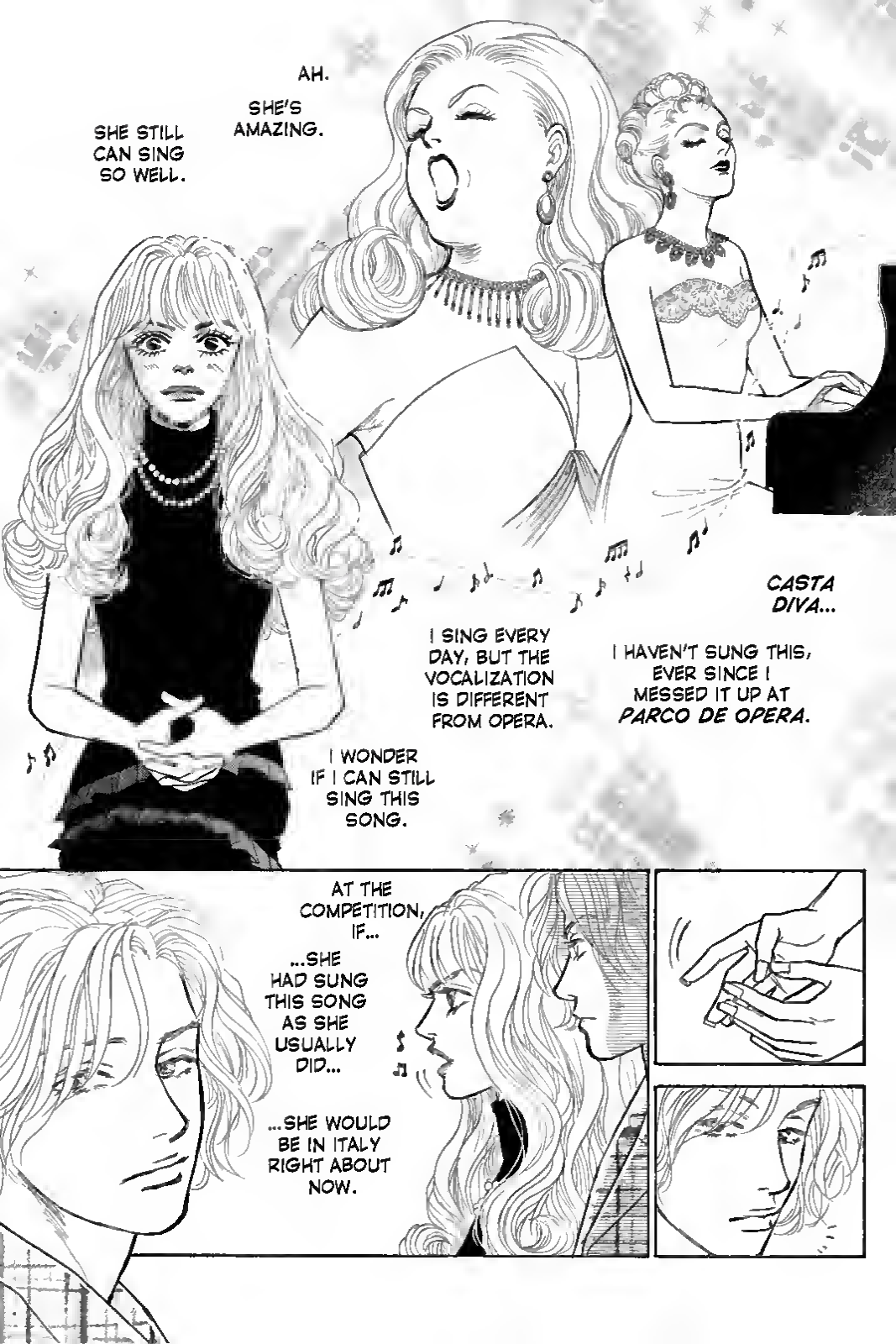
Takashi! ♡
Ah, it looks like you slept well last night.
Your skin is glowing.
I'm glad we're televising today's performance.
If he doesn't come, I'm not going to perform!
Where is Takashi?!
I let him go home last night because he promised he would come again today.
She's aiming for the position of the wife of the president of Queen Record.
She's so selfish!
WAH
CLAP
110
CLAP
110
CLAP
110
WAH
That's spectacular. I have the world's Betty, all to myself.
CHU
Listen at the side of the stage. I'm playing for you today.
That's the technique he learned from our president. I'm impressed.
He's amazing.

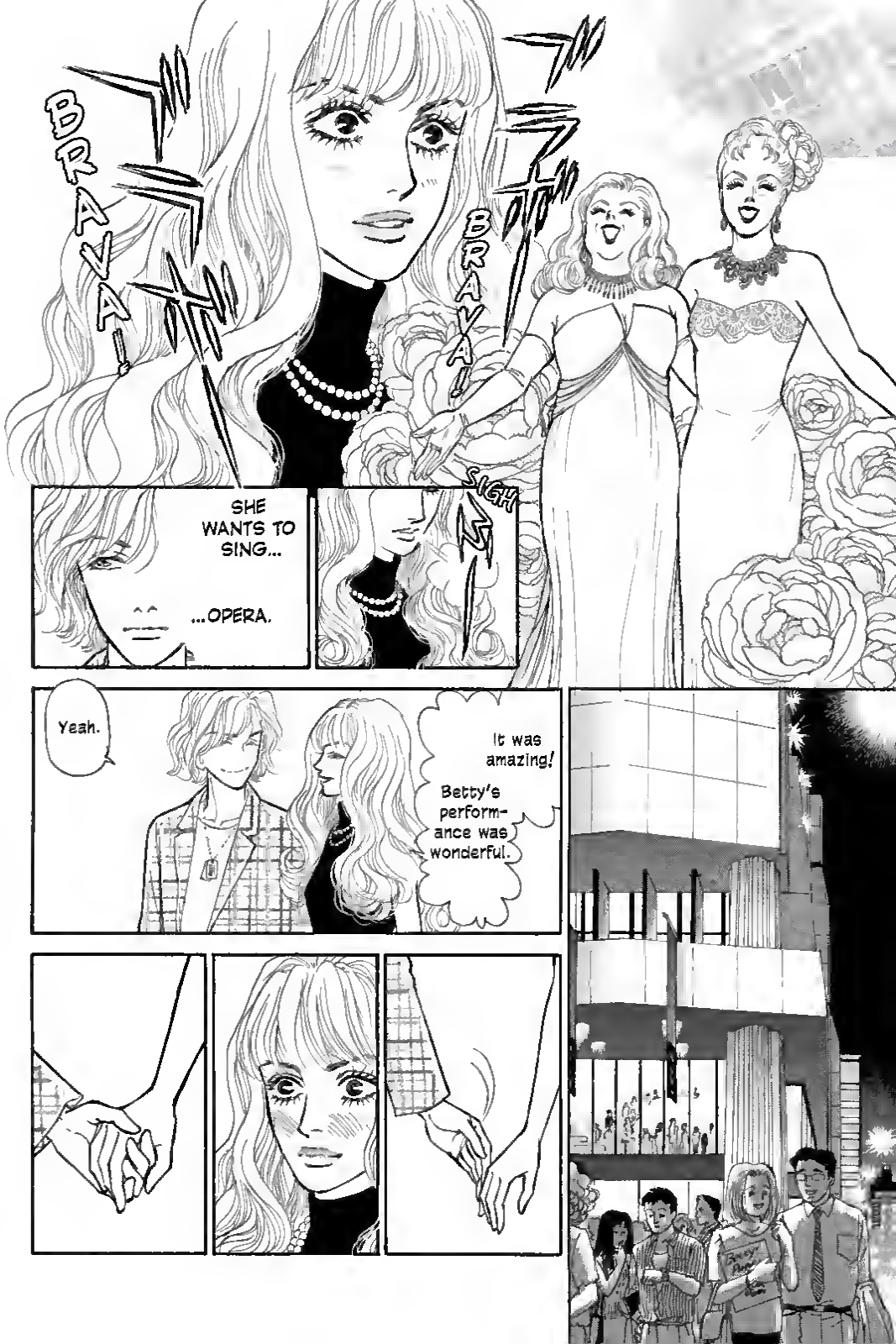

AH, THERE SHE IS. SHE STANDS OUT.
SHE CAME WITH RANMARU, I SEE.
I BELIEVE THE TICKETS WERE FOR SEATS IN THE FRONT.
She always starts with that.
There's the swan pose.
You can tell how her physical condition is by how far back she bends.


BAMMM

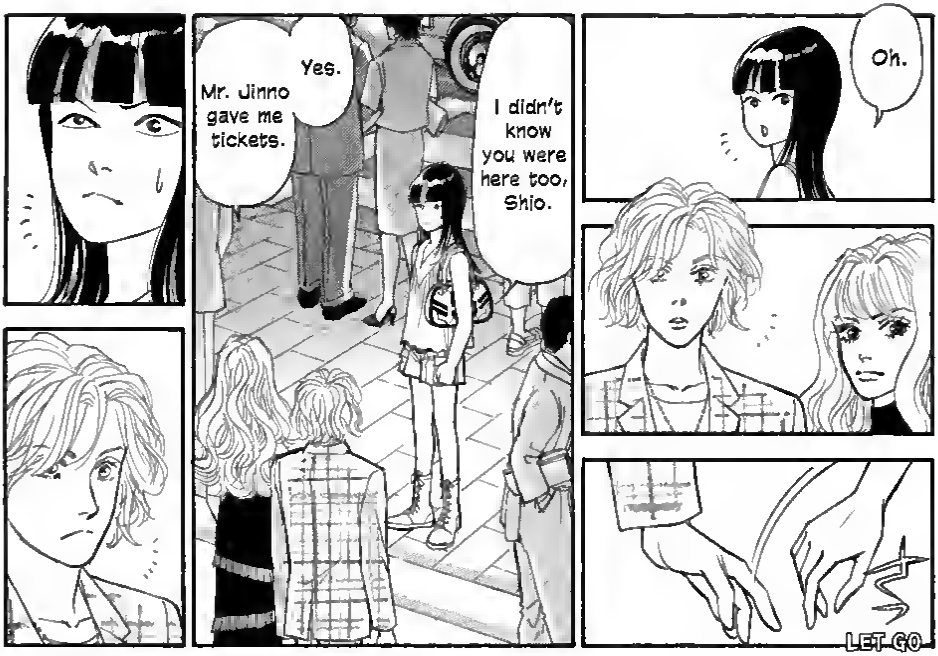
PRIDE 4

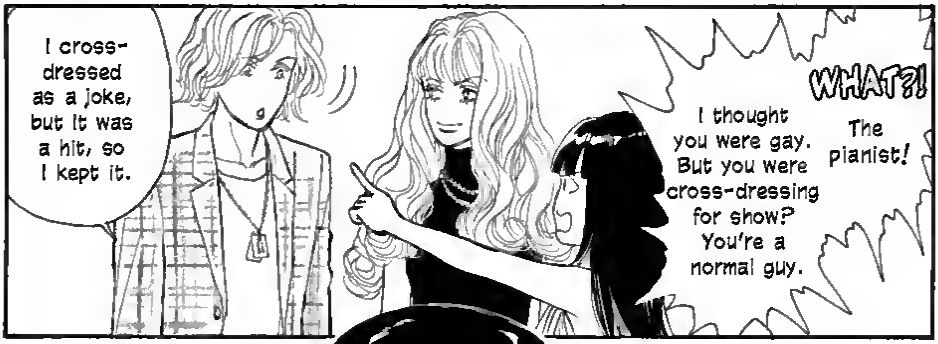
Wow!
Betty is amazing. Her sound is lively, yet transparent. It's the best.
CLAP 110 千 CLAP
CLAP 110 千 CLAP
WOOO
CLAP 110 千
CLAP 110 千
I'VE ONLY SEEN HIM IN A DRESS.
I FORGOT THAT HE COULD BE A THREAT.
We have a special guest today.
The opera singer Japan boasts...
She will be singing *Casta diva* from *Norma*.
Please enjoy this wonderful collaboration.
わあ！
WAHHH
...Ms. Haruko Matsushima!
I haven't heard Madame Matsushima sing for a while.
They're going all out because this is going to be televised.


AH.
SHE'S AMAZING.
SHE STILL CAN SING SO WELL.
CASTA DIVA...
I HAVEN'T SUNG THIS, EVER SINCE I MESSED IT UP AT PARCO DE OPERA.
I SING EVERY DAY, BUT THE VOCALIZATION IS DIFFERENT FROM OPERA.
I WONDER IF I CAN STILL SING THIS SONG.
AT THE COMPETITION, IF...
...SHE HAD SUNG THIS SONG AS SHE USUALLY DID...
...SHE WOULD BE IN ITALY RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

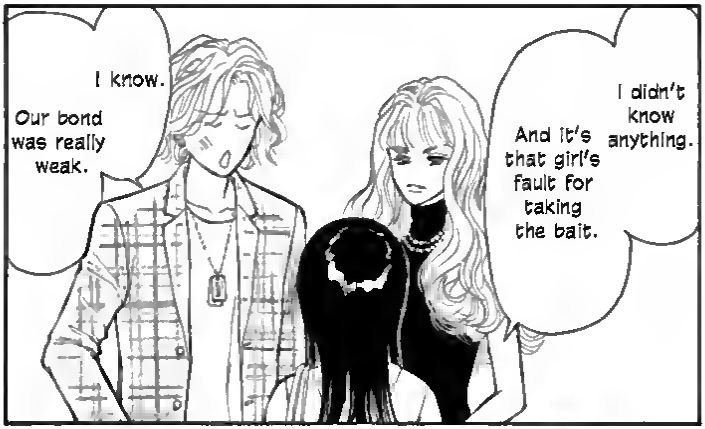

BRAVA!
BRAVA!
SHE WANTS TO SING...
...OPERA.
SIGH
Yeah.
It was amazing!
Betty's performance was wonderful.

HOW LONG CAN I HOLD THIS HAND?
JUST WHEN HER HEART IS ACCEPTING ME...
...SHE'S GOING AWAY TO STUDY ABROAD.
...TO GO SING OPERA.
SHE'S GOING TO SLIP AWAY...
I WANTED TO SLOWLY BUILD UP OUR RELATIONSHIP.
BUT HOW MUCH TIME DO I HAVE?
I CAN'T STOP HER FROM SINGING.
I CAN'T TELL HER THAT I DON'T WANT HER TO GO.

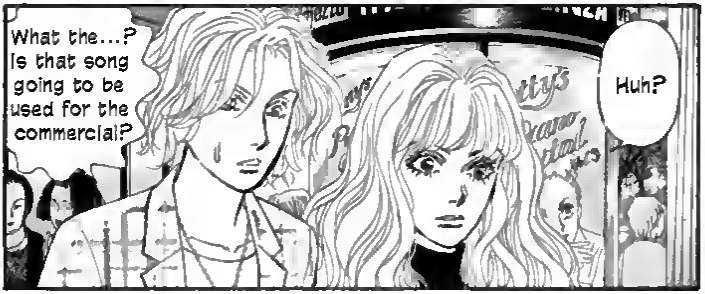

Yes.
Mr. Jinno gave me tickets.
I didn't know you were here too, Shio.
Oh.
LET GO


I cross-dressed as a joke, but it was a hit, so I kept it.
I thought you were gay. But you were cross-dressing for show? You're a normal guy.
WHAT?!
The pianist!

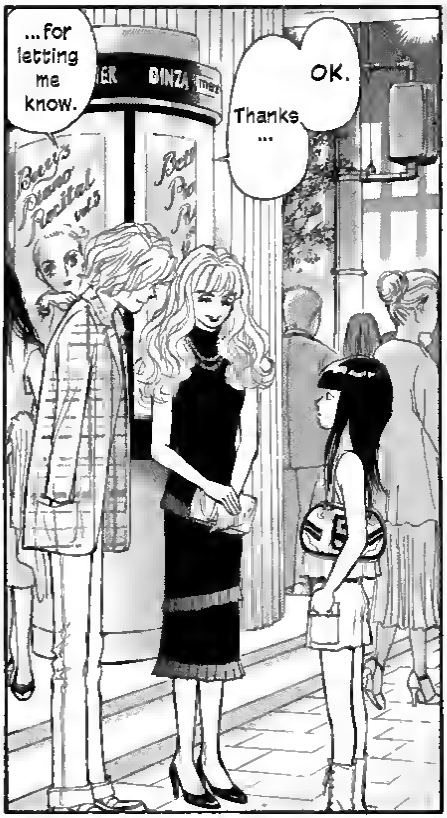
Don't blame me for SRM breaking up.
I wanted to tell you something.
Well, whatever. Perfect timing.


I know.
Our bond was really weak.
I didn't know anything.
And it's that girl's fault for taking the bait.

...I have to debut with a song that I can't really call my own.
Because of my prank...
Good. I'm regretting something, too.


What the...? Is that song going to be used for the commercial?
Huh?

It's humiliating for me, but you'll find out anyway... which is why I'm telling you now.
The sponsor loved it.

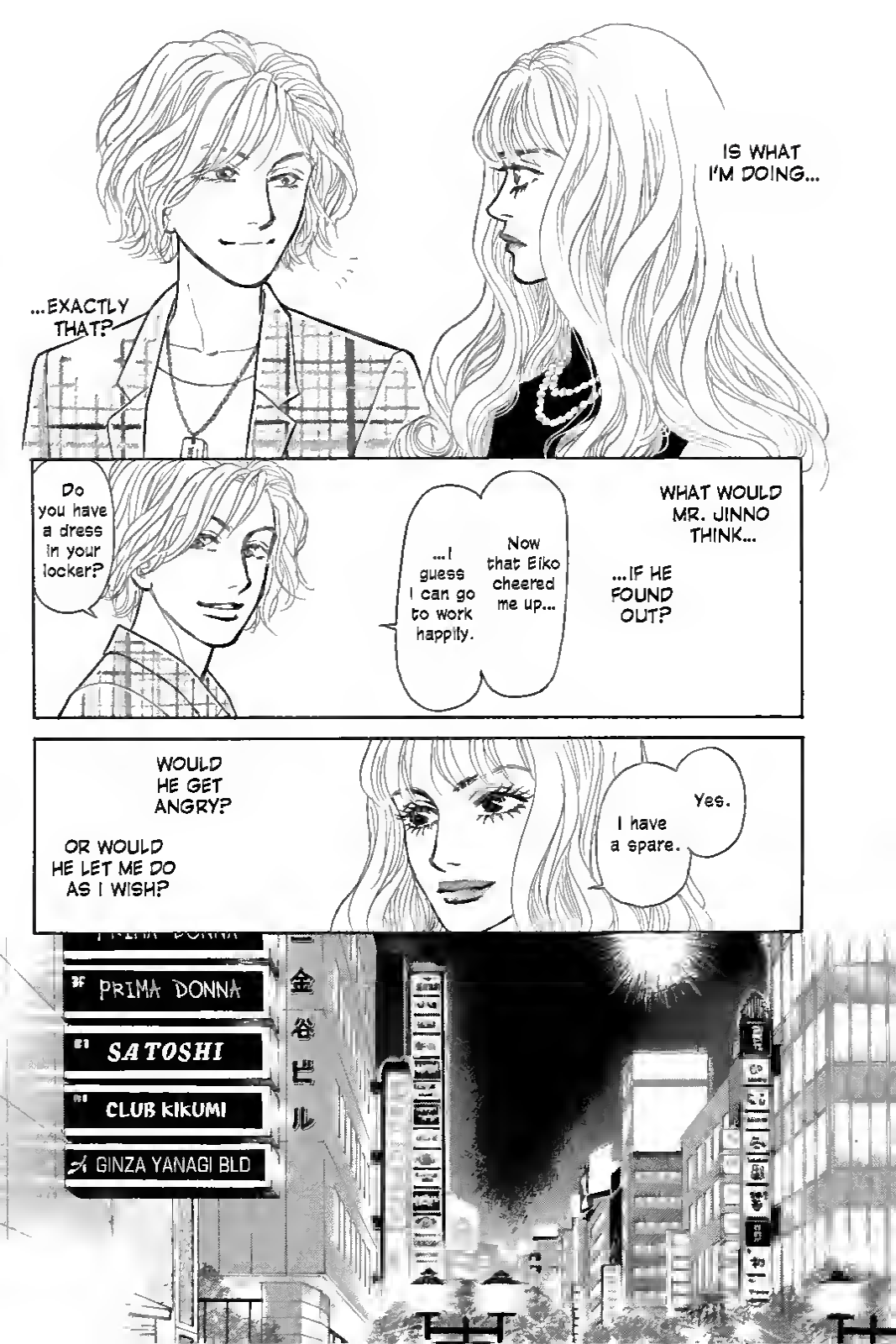

...for letting me know.
OK. Thanks ...
GINZA

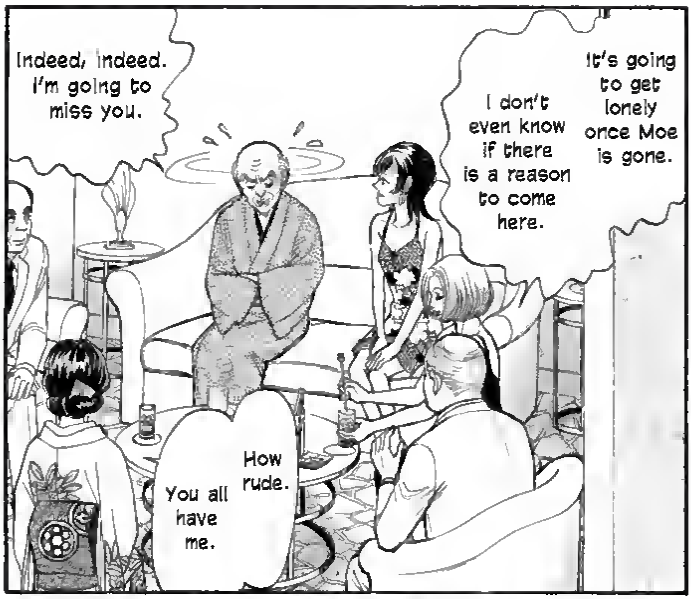
GUCCI

Whatever! I'm the best!
Don't worry! I'm tougher than I look.
Because I believe that I'm the best.

I'm going back to New York tomorrow.
I don't want my rivals going down just yet.
That's all I wanted to say.

mezzo
THEATER
You too!
Give it all you got!
I don't want you fooling around with other men.
It would damage my reputation.
FOOLING AROUND...
I LET GO...
... INSTINCTIVELY.

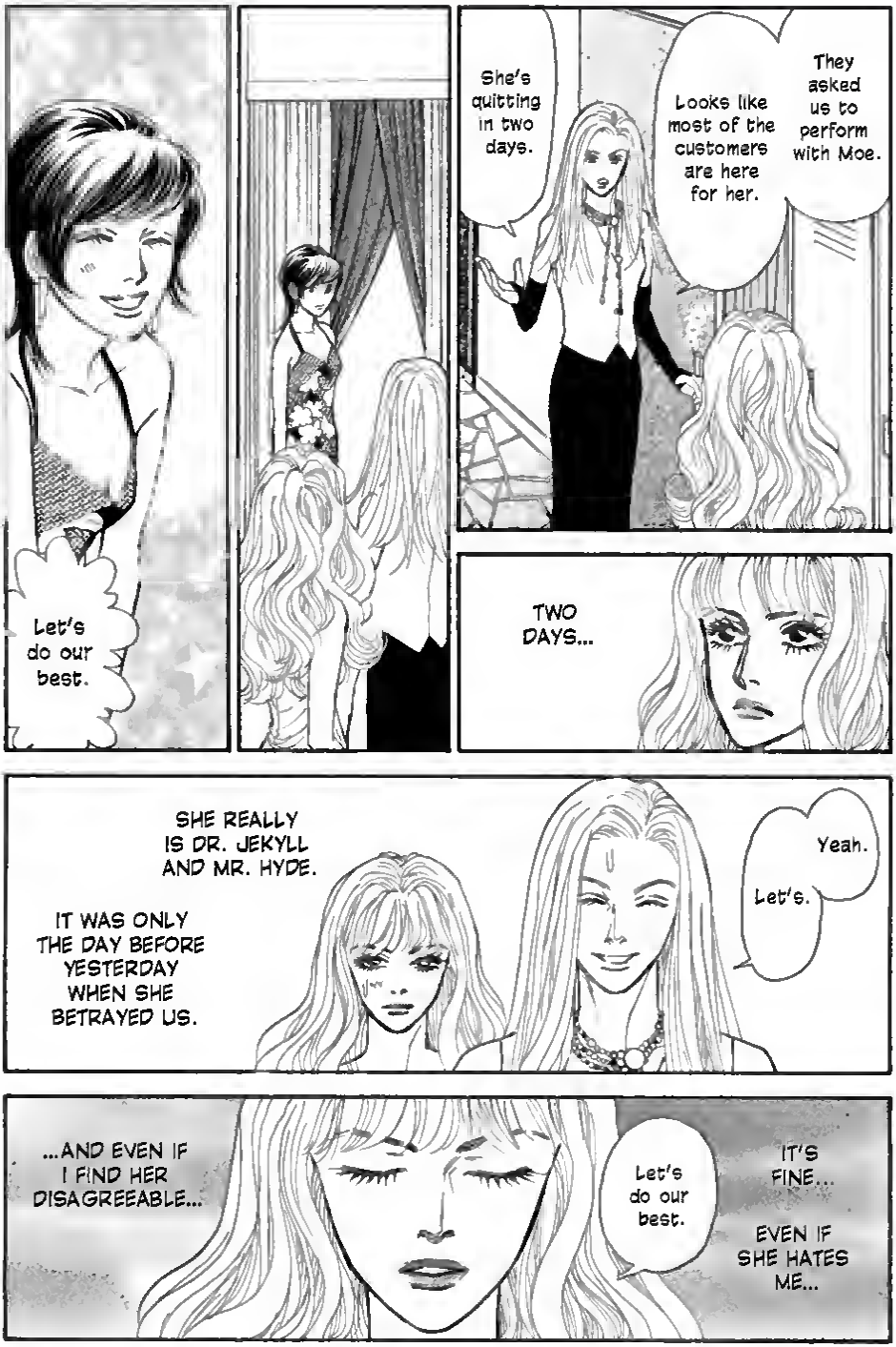

...EXACTLY THAT?
IS WHAT I'M DOING...
Do you have a dress in your locker?
...I guess I can go to work happily.
Now that Eiko cheered me up...
WHAT WOULD MR. JINNO THINK...
...IF HE FOUND OUT?
WOULD HE GET ANGRY?
OR WOULD HE LET ME DO AS I WISH?
Yes. I have a spare.
PRIMA DONNA
SATOSHI
CLUB KIKUMI
GINZA YANAGI BLD


Indeed, indeed. I'm going to miss you.
I don't even know if there is a reason to come here.
It's going to get lonely once Moe is gone.
How rude.
You all have me.

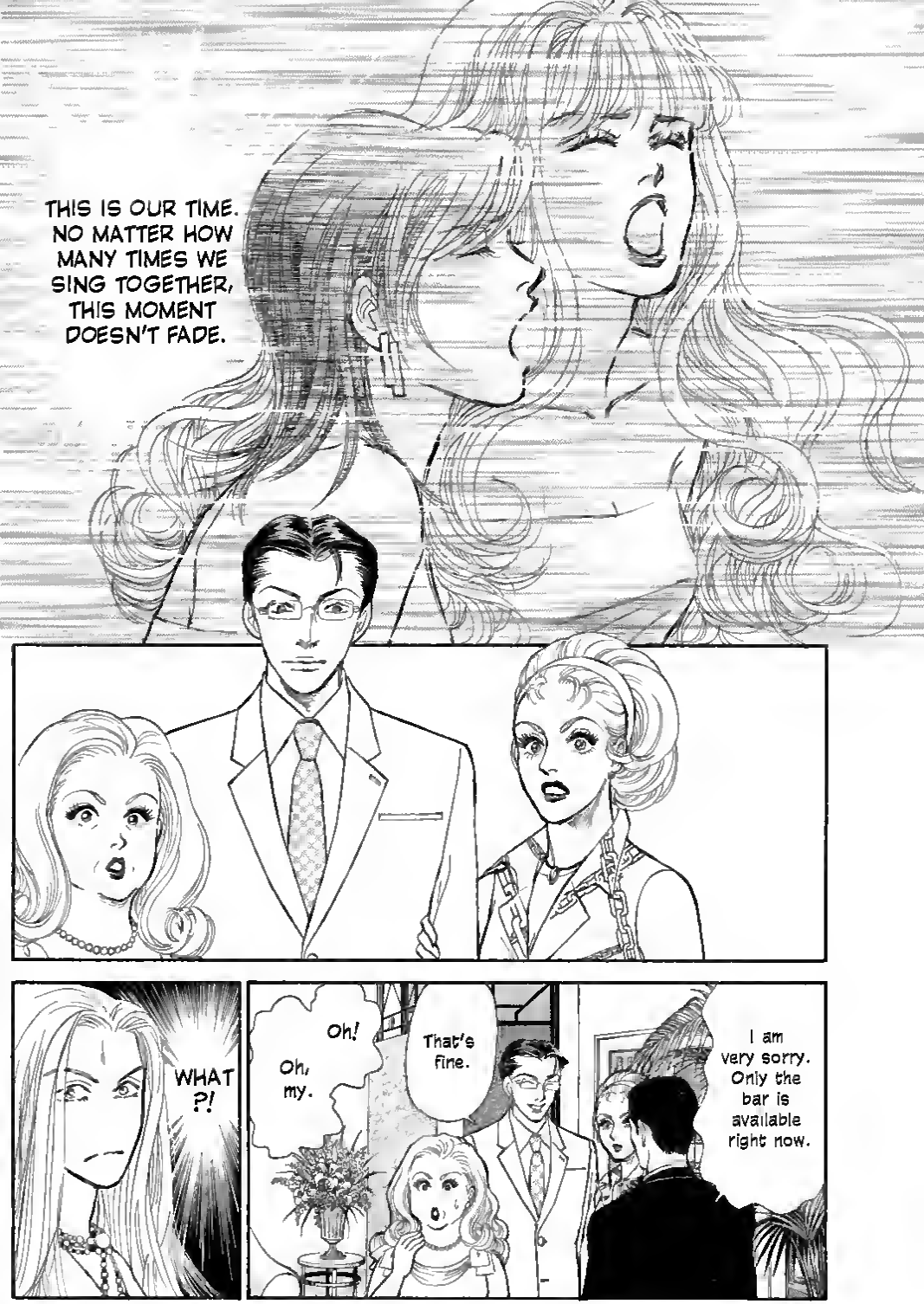
I'm sorry, Grandpa Hoshino. You were so good to me.

Unfortunately, it's true. She's going to study abroad in Italy.
I heard Moe is leaving.

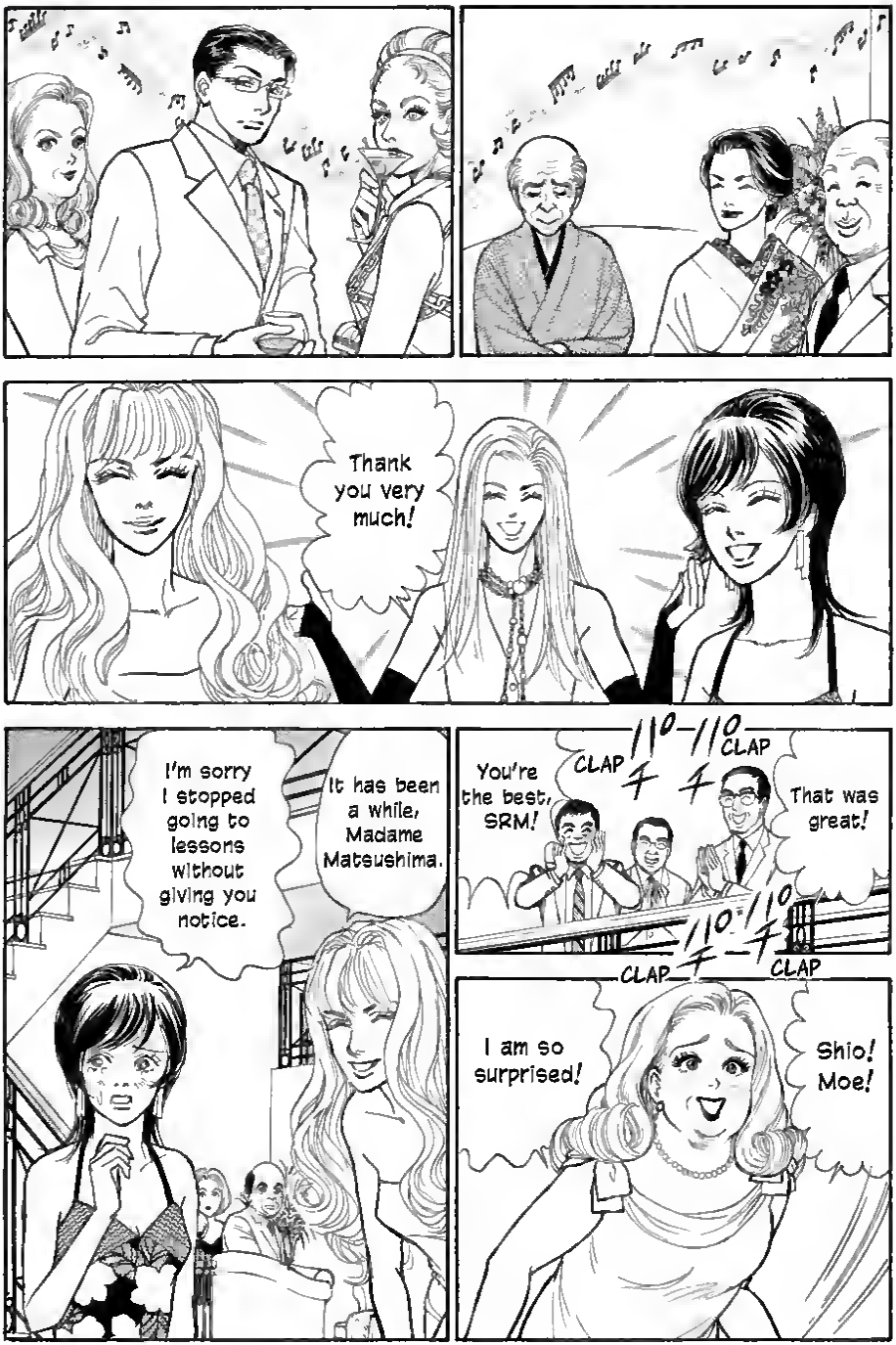
I came all the way here, but I can't get near her.
It's as if we're Moe's help.
Look at all the customers.


Let's do our best.
She's quitting in two days.
Looks like most of the customers are here for her.
They asked us to perform with Moe.
TWO DAYS...
SHE REALLY IS DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE.
IT WAS ONLY THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY WHEN SHE BETRAYED US.
Yeah.
Let's.
...AND EVEN IF I FIND HER DISAGREEABLE...
Let's do our best.
IT'S FINE...
EVEN IF SHE HATES ME...

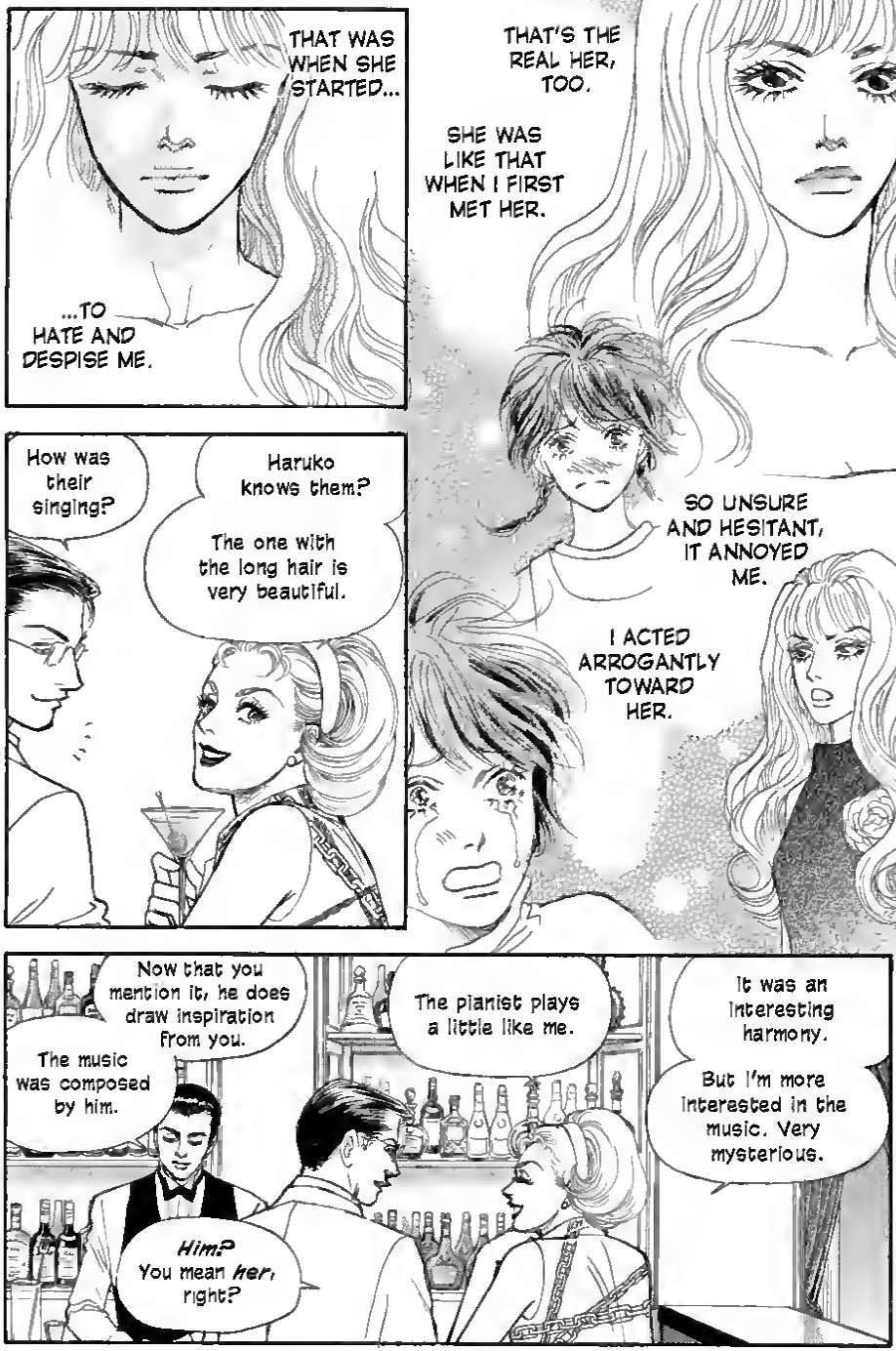
...I KNOW IT DOESN'T MATTER ONCE WE'RE ON STAGE.
RAN'S PIANO INVITES US...
...AND I CATCH UP TO MOE'S VOICE AND PASS HER.
OUR VOICES AND MUSIC BECOME ONE.

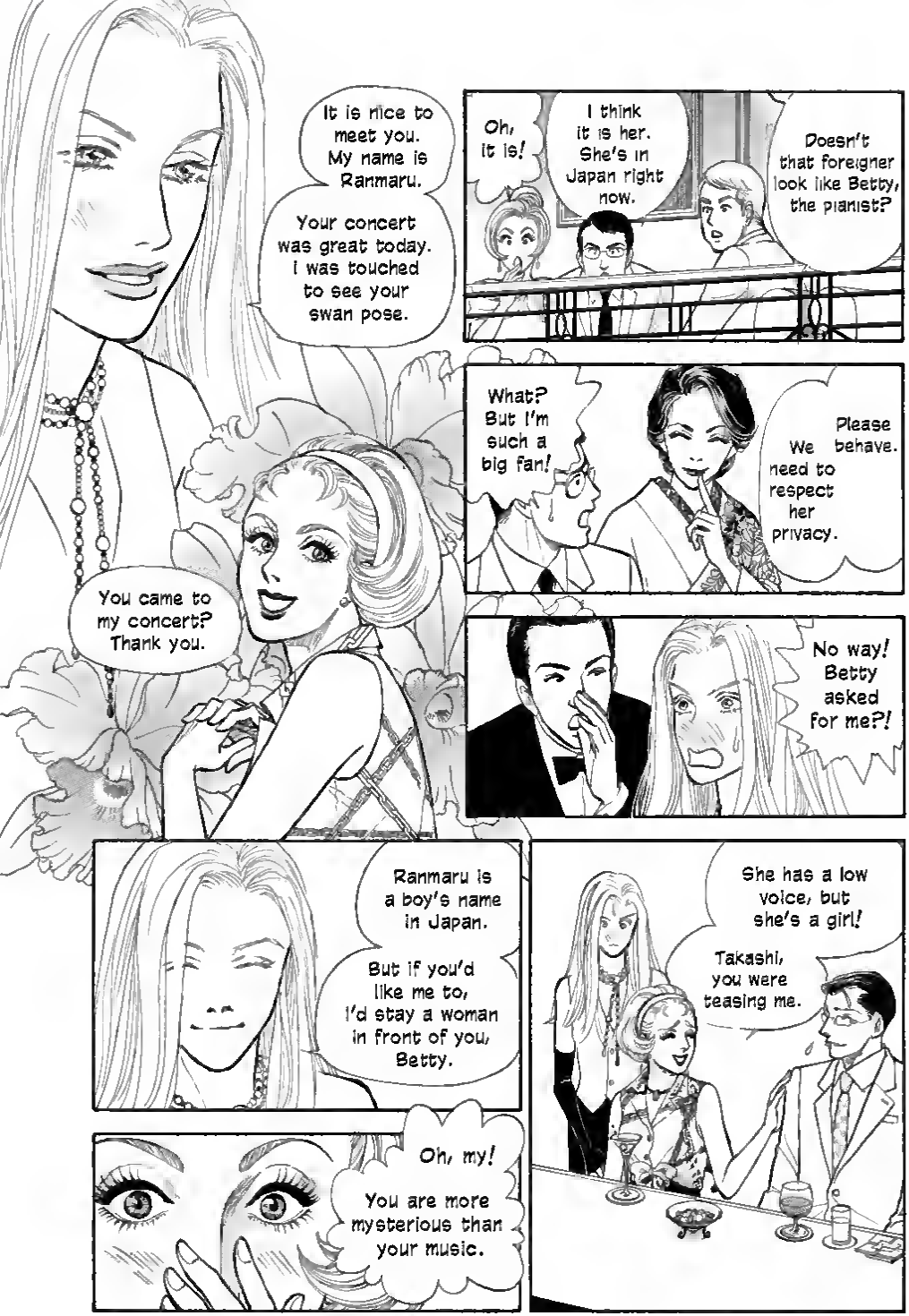

THIS IS OUR TIME. NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES WE SING TOGETHER, THIS MOMENT DOESN'T FADE.
WHAT?!
Oh, my.
Oh!
That's fine.
I am very sorry. Only the bar is available right now.

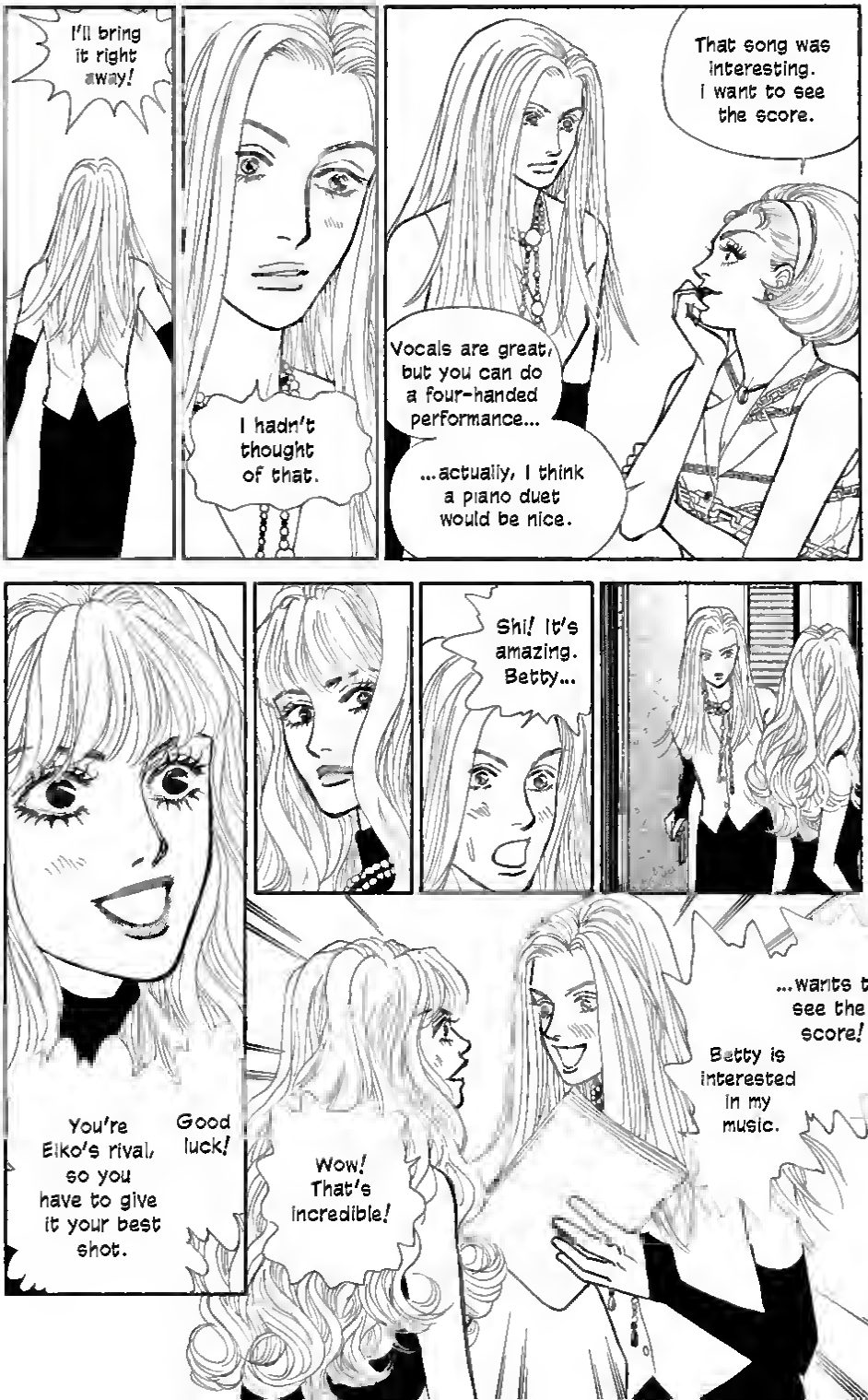
I'M PLAYING IN FRONT OF BETTY?!
NO FREAKING WAY!
COULD THE WOMAN WITH THEM BE...
MADAME MATSUSHIMA! AND MR. JINNO!
RIGHT NOW, WE'RE TAKING CENTER STAGE!
MOE! YOU'RE LATE.
BRING IT ON.

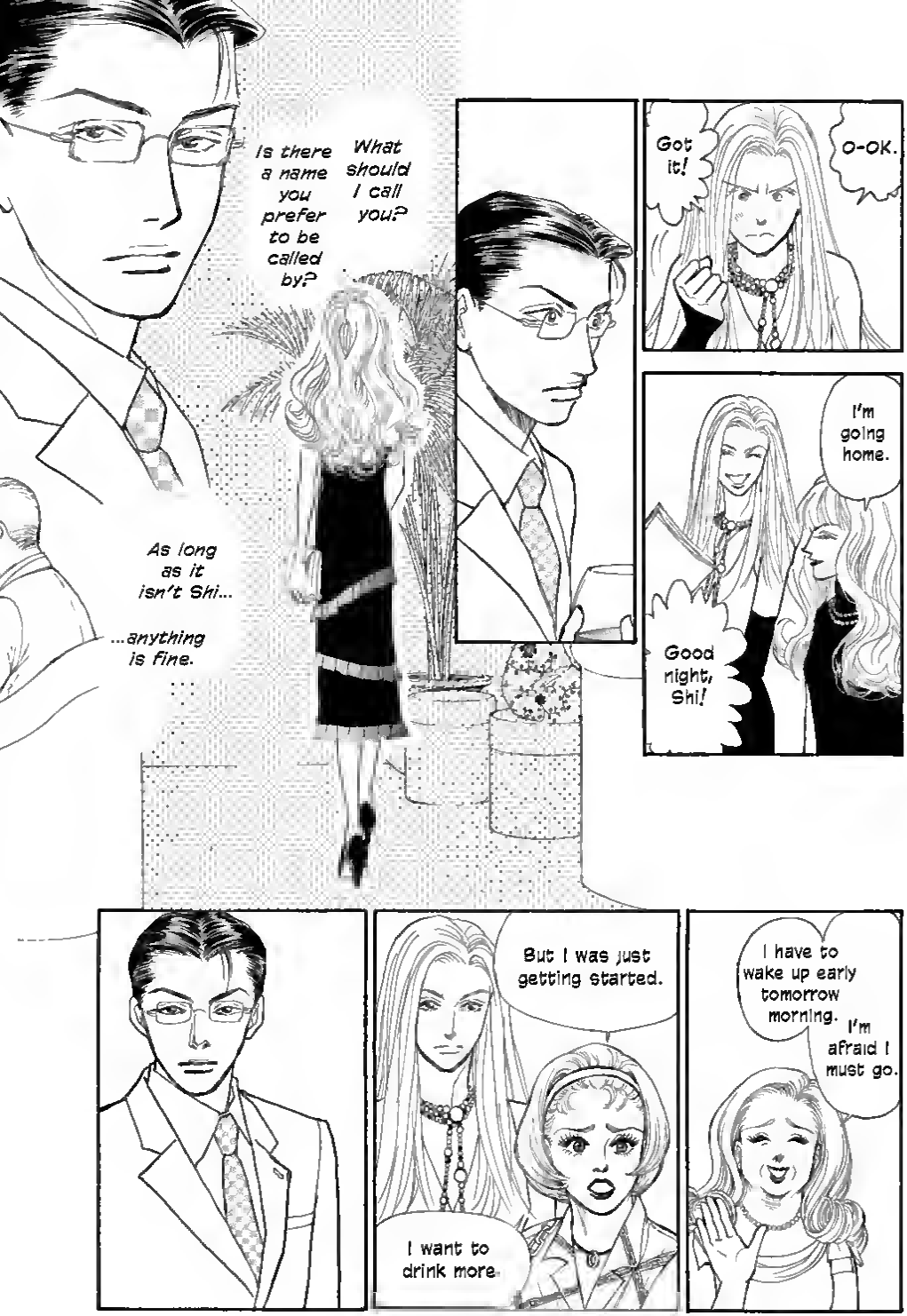

Thank you very much!
I'm sorry I stopped going to lessons without giving you notice.
It has been a while, Madame Matsushima.
You're the best, SRM!
CLAP
110
CLAP
That was great!
I am so surprised!
Shio! Moe!

I'm so happy.
I was so worried.
You'll be fine abroad.
I can't believe it. What kind of training did you do?
Did a diva take over you?!
Of course, hard work is necessary, too.
Are you...
...sure?
I know. I was worried when I went abroad, too.
Thank you, Madame...
I'll do my best.
MOE IS HONEST, LIKE AN INNOCENT CHILD.


THAT WAS WHEN SHE STARTED...
...TO HATE AND DESPISE ME.
THAT'S THE REAL HER, TOO.
SHE WAS LIKE THAT WHEN I FIRST MET HER.
SO UNSURE AND HESITANT, IT ANNOYED ME.
I ACTED ARROGANTLY TOWARD HER.
How was their singing?
Haruko knows them?
The one with the long hair is very beautiful.
Now that you mention it, he does draw inspiration from you.
The music was composed by him.
The pianist plays a little like me.
It was an interesting harmony.
But I'm more interested in the music. Very mysterious.
Him? You mean *her*, right?

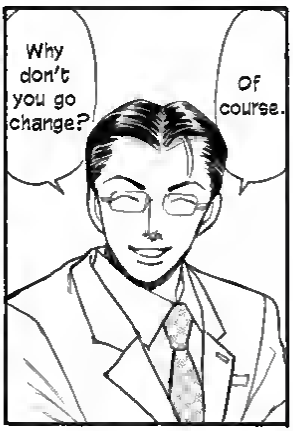

It is nice to meet you. My name is Ranmaru.
Your concert was great today. I was touched to see your swan pose.
You came to my concert? Thank you.
Oh, it is!
I think it is her. She's in Japan right now.
Doesn't that foreigner look like Betty, the pianist?
What? But I'm such a big fan!
Please behave. We need to respect her privacy.
No way! Betty asked for me?!
Ranmaru is a boy's name in Japan.
But if you'd like me to, I'd stay a woman in front of you, Betty.
Oh, my!
You are more mysterious than your music.
She has a low voice, but she's a girl!
Takashi, you were teasing me.


I'll bring it right away!
I hadn't thought of that.
That song was interesting. I want to see the score.
Vocals are great, but you can do a four-handed performance...
...actually, I think a piano duet would be nice.
Shi! It's amazing. Betty...
...wants to see the score!
Betty is interested in my music.
Wow! That's incredible!
You're Eiko's rival, so you have to give it your best shot.
Good luck!


Is there a name you prefer to be called by?
What should I call you?
As long as it isn't Shi...
...anything is fine.
Got it!
O-OK.
I'm going home.
Good night, Shi!
But I was just getting started.
I want to drink more.
I have to wake up early tomorrow morning.
I'm afraid I must go.

That sounds good.
I'll take you back to your hotel, so how about drinking at the bar?
Ranmaru, why don't you join us?
Huh?
I can go, too?

You're too old to be saying amore.
HA HA HA
Italy is the land of amore.
You know, Moe...


Why don't you go change?
Of course.

I'LL BE FINE.
I'LL BE FINE.
You'll be fine abroad.

MR. JINNO IS SOMEONE WHO GOES OUT DRINKING WITH BETTY.
HE LIVES IN A DIFFERENT WORLD FROM ME.
GOT IT, MOE?

OH!!
You were really a boy!
Thank you for waiting.
What a cutie!
I want to eat you all up! ♡
SHE CALLS ME A BOY, BUT...
...I'M ALREADY 22.
HA HA
?
You don't have to come home tonight.
Why don't you get eaten?
Not very parental of you to say that.
...GOING FOR MY SON.
BETTY IS...
I want to take a picture.

Cheers to the lovely Takashi and the adorable Ranmaru.
Japan's humidity gets to me, but I love the Japanese. And shopping here, too.
I'm going to go fix it.
Oh, no. It's because it was hot today.
Betty, you have mascara on your face.
Mr. Jinno ...
Thank you very much for inviting me.

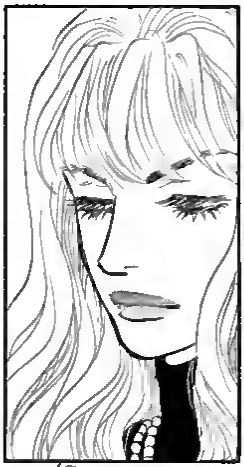
Huh?
Why don't you get eaten, then?
For introducing me to Betty.
I'm so excited, I don't know if I'll be able to sleep tonight.
It looks like she is interested in you.
And you don't hate her too, right?
Betty loves handsome young men. Especially those who are Asian.
Betty's golden hands...
...could send your music out into the world.
This is a big opportunity.

I caused you trouble in regards to Eiko, after all.
You're ... ...giving me this opportunity ?
ddd
But I'm leaving.
It's up to you, what you decide to do.

See you.
I'm sure you know how to handle a lady.
I wish you luck.

ゴトン
KA-TUNK
ゴトン
KA-TUNK
ゴトン
KA-TUNK
ゴトン
KA-TUNK

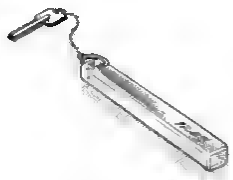
GOOD LUCK.



I HOPE...
...AN OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF TO RAN.
IF BETTY COULD PERFORM RAN'S MUSIC...
...THAT WOULD BE MORE THAN I COULD DREAM OF FOR HIM.

PRIDE 4

IT'S BETTY, WHOM I ADMIRE. THIS IS A NO-BRAINER.

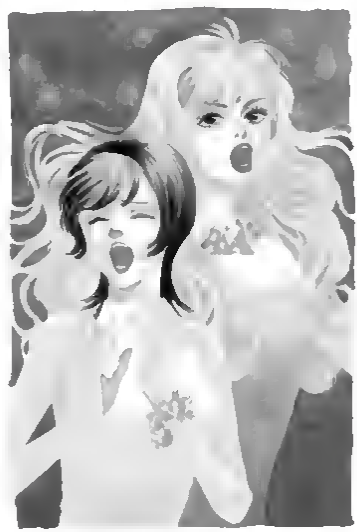


THIS MAGIC KEY COULD MAKE MY DREAMS COME TRUE.

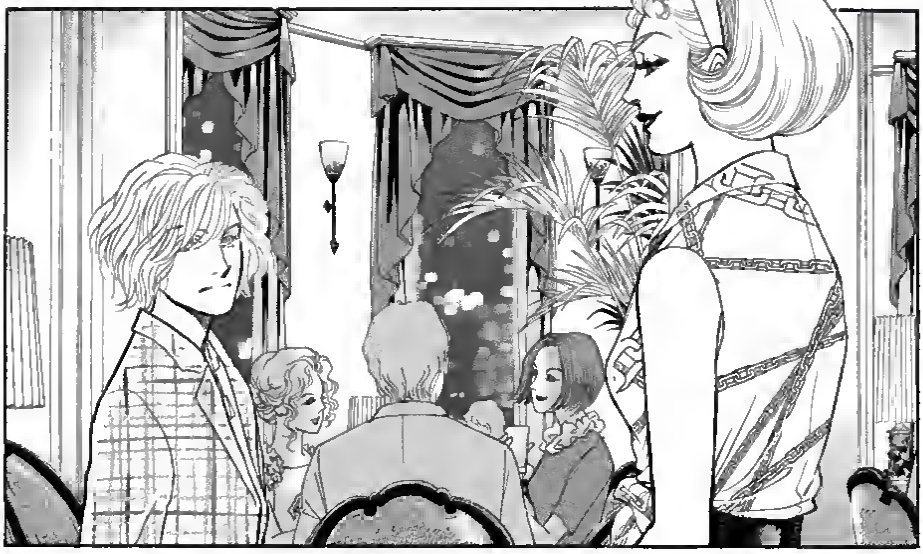
OF COURSE I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE A LADY.

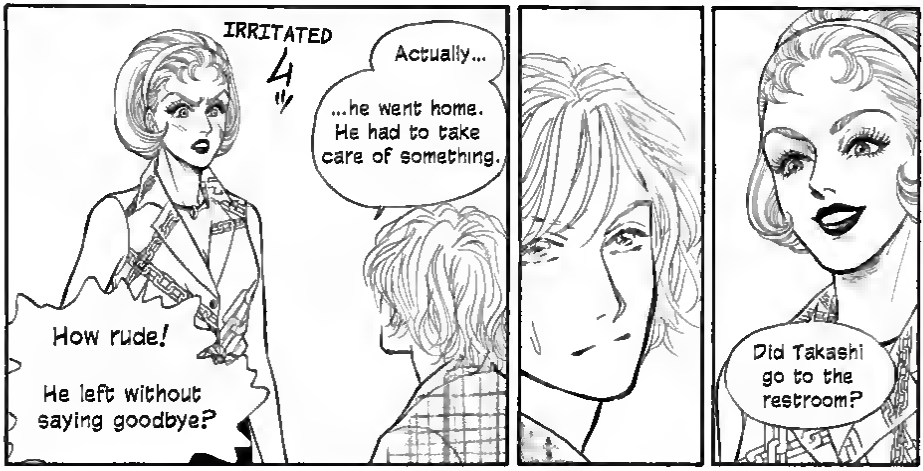
I'VE FOOLED AROUND WITH HOSTESSES BEFORE.

Oh? Where did Takashi go?



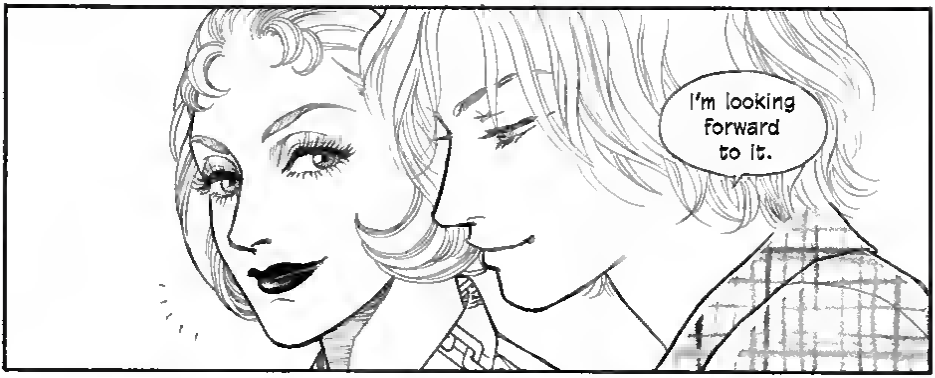
PRIDE 4




IRRITATED
Actually...
...he went home. He had to take care of something.
How rude!
He left without saying goodbye?
Did Takashi go to the restroom?

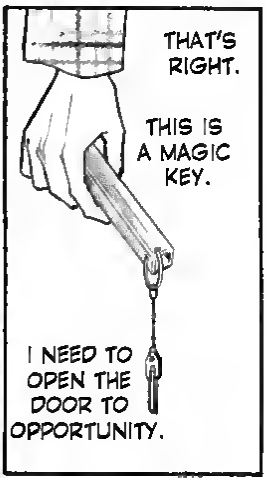
You can't be satisfied with just me?
Should I...
...go home?
The view from the bathroom is exquisite.
Why don't we drink in my room?
I'll order some champagne.
Not so fast.

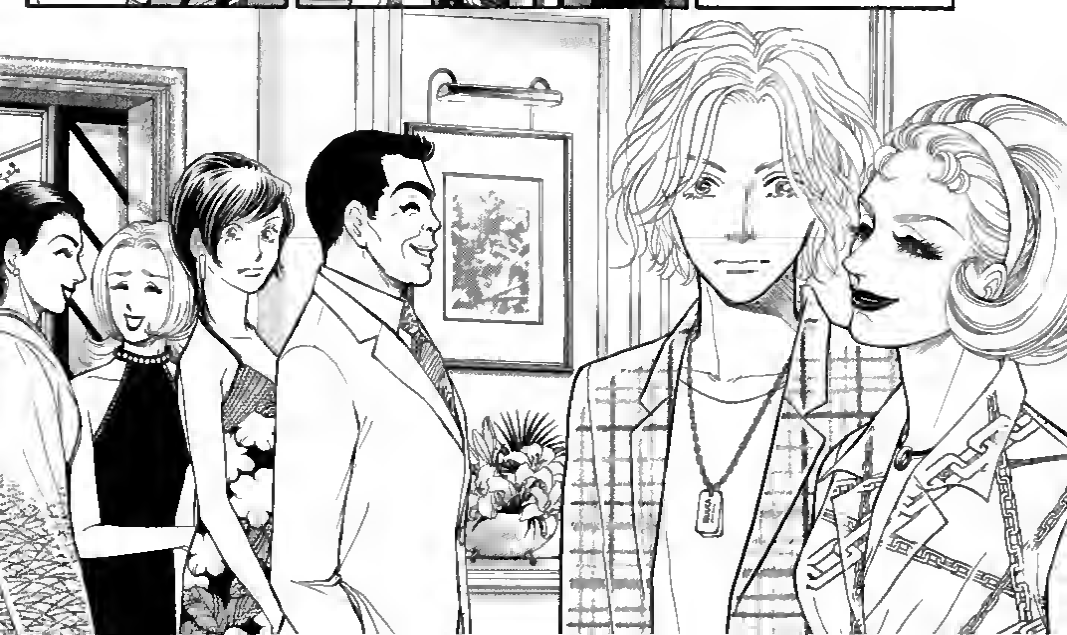
PRIDE 4


I'm looking forward to it.

You can say good-bye to Tokyo while enjoying the night view.
HA HA HA
I hope we're not intruding.

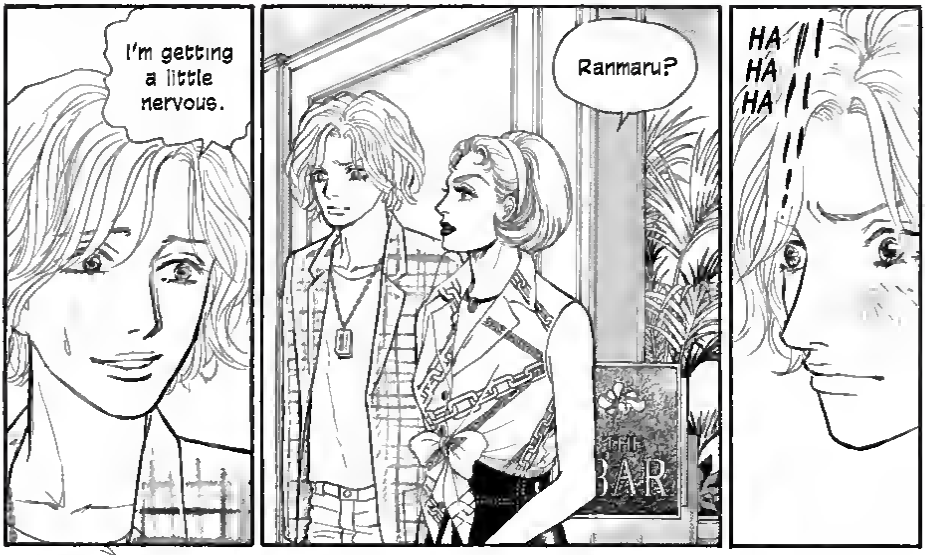
Thank you very much.


THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS IS A MAGIC KEY.
I NEED TO OPEN THE DOOR TO OPPORTUNITY.



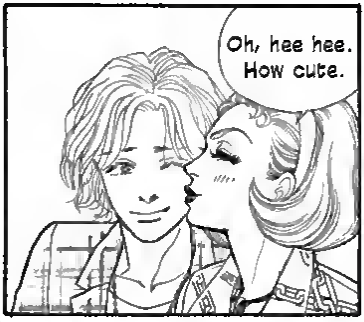
GUCCI
Let's get a table by the window.
Yes, it's lovely! So romantic.
How about it, Moe? Do you like it?

PRIDE 4


I'm getting a little nervous.
Ranmaru?
HA HA HA!!!
BAR

Please ...
...take this chance.

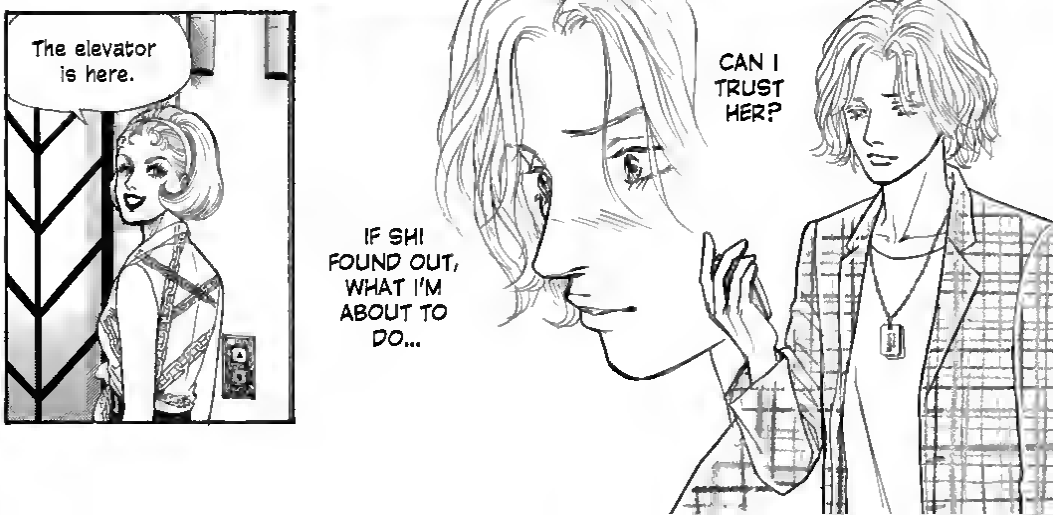
I won't tell anyone.
I just wanted to let you know that.
I can be discreet.

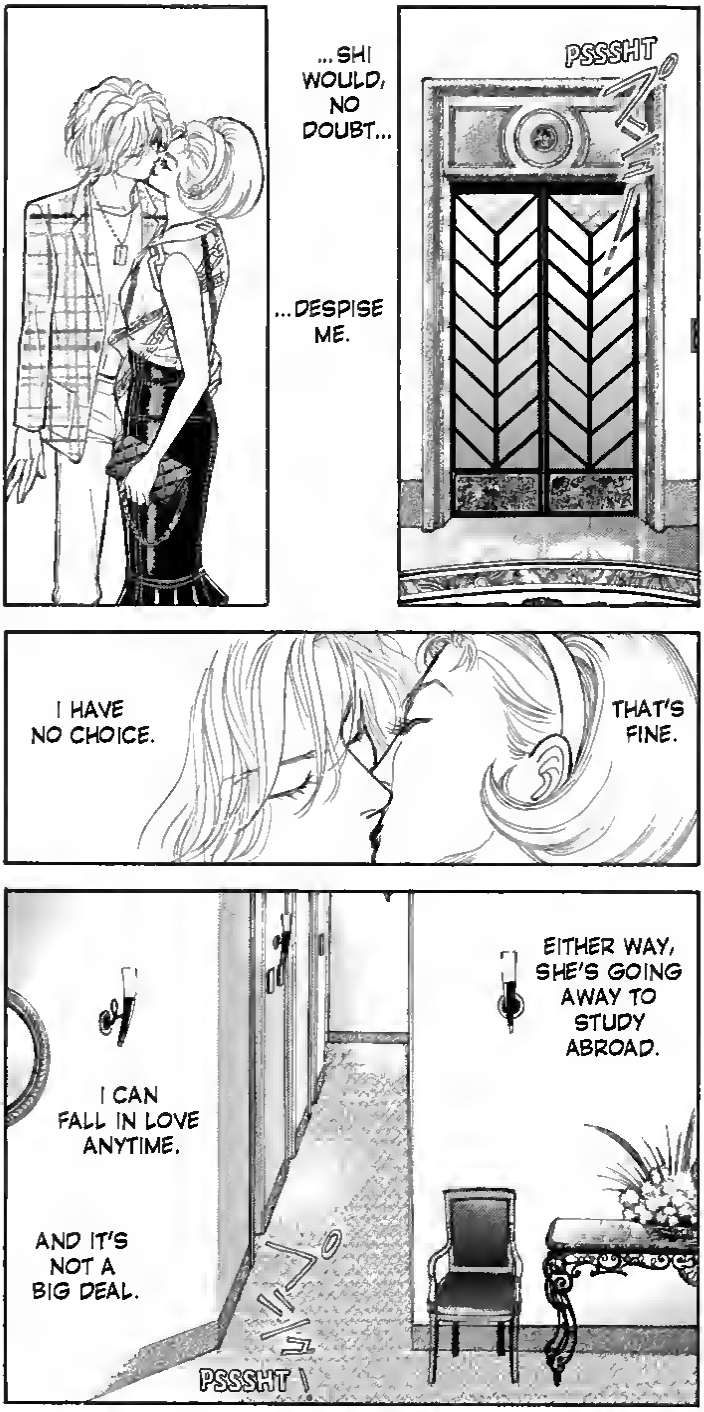

Oh, hee hee. How cute.

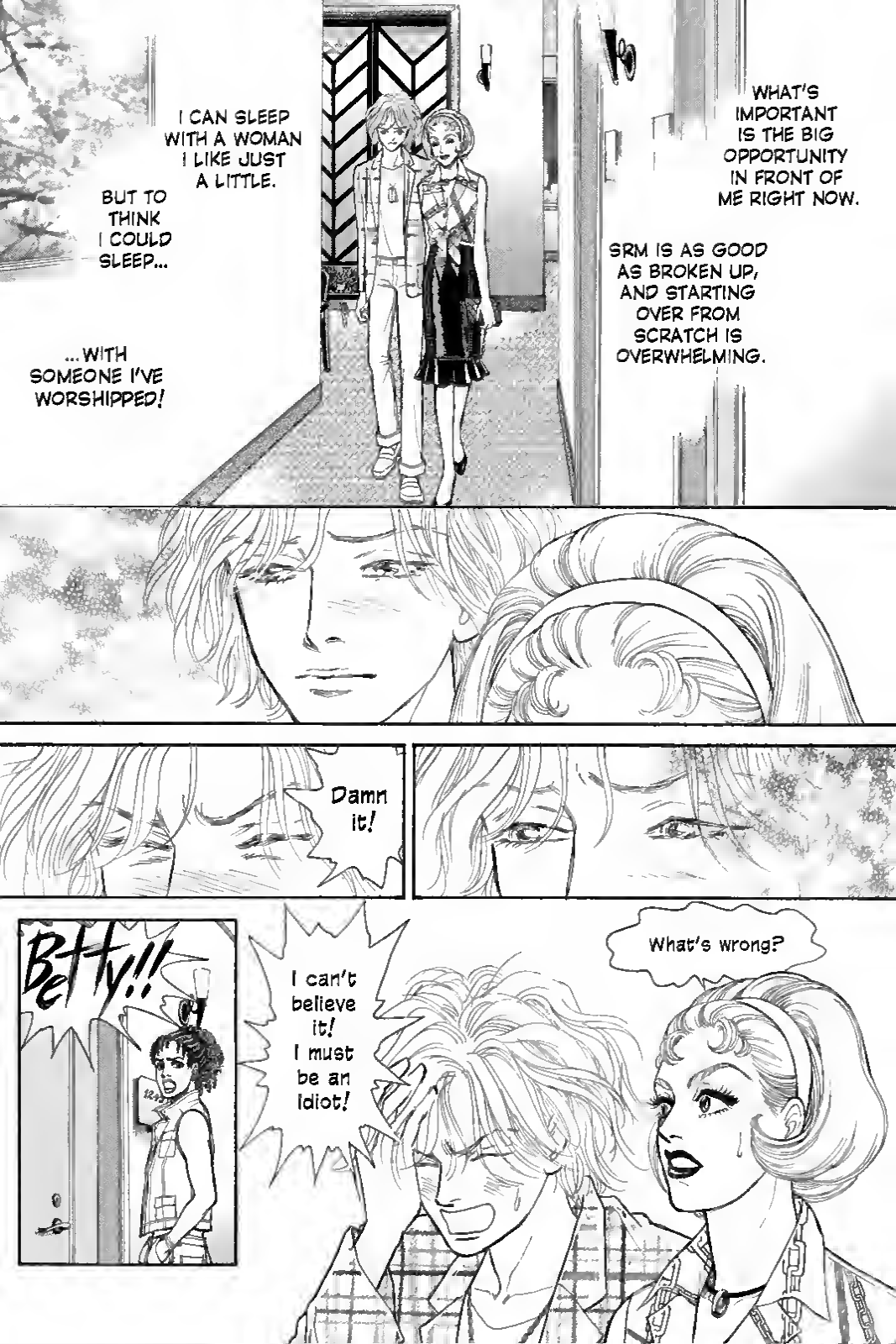
Could you just listen?
It's me.

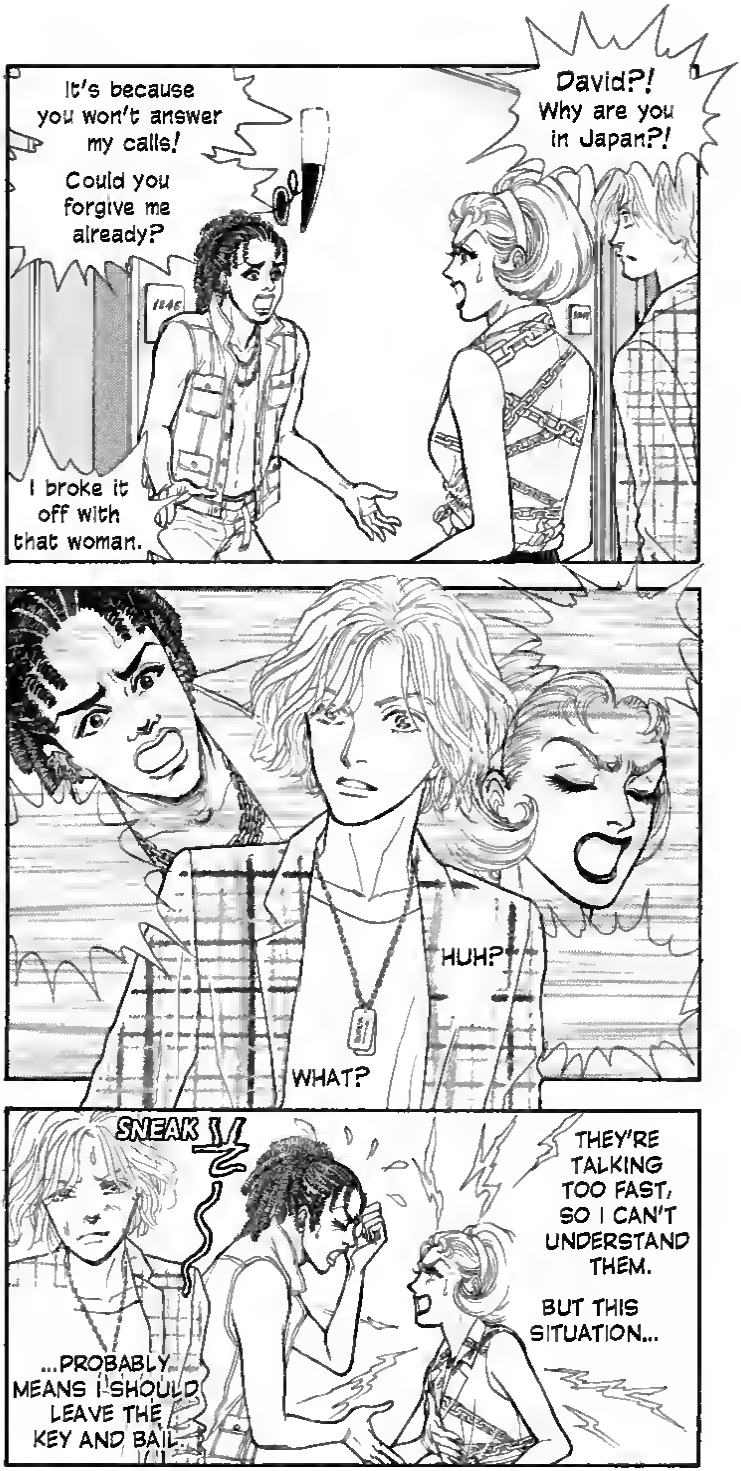
I WONDER IF HE'LL TAKE THE BAIT.

EIKO WOULDN'T HAVE PLAGIARIZED IT IF SHE DIDN'T LIKE IT.
AND IT WAS A SURPRISE THAT BETTY, WHO IS SO PICKY WITH SOUND, TOOK AN INTEREST.
I THOUGHT HIS MUSIC WAS TOO AVANT-GARDE, BUT IT MUST HAVE A MYSTERIOUS APPEAL.

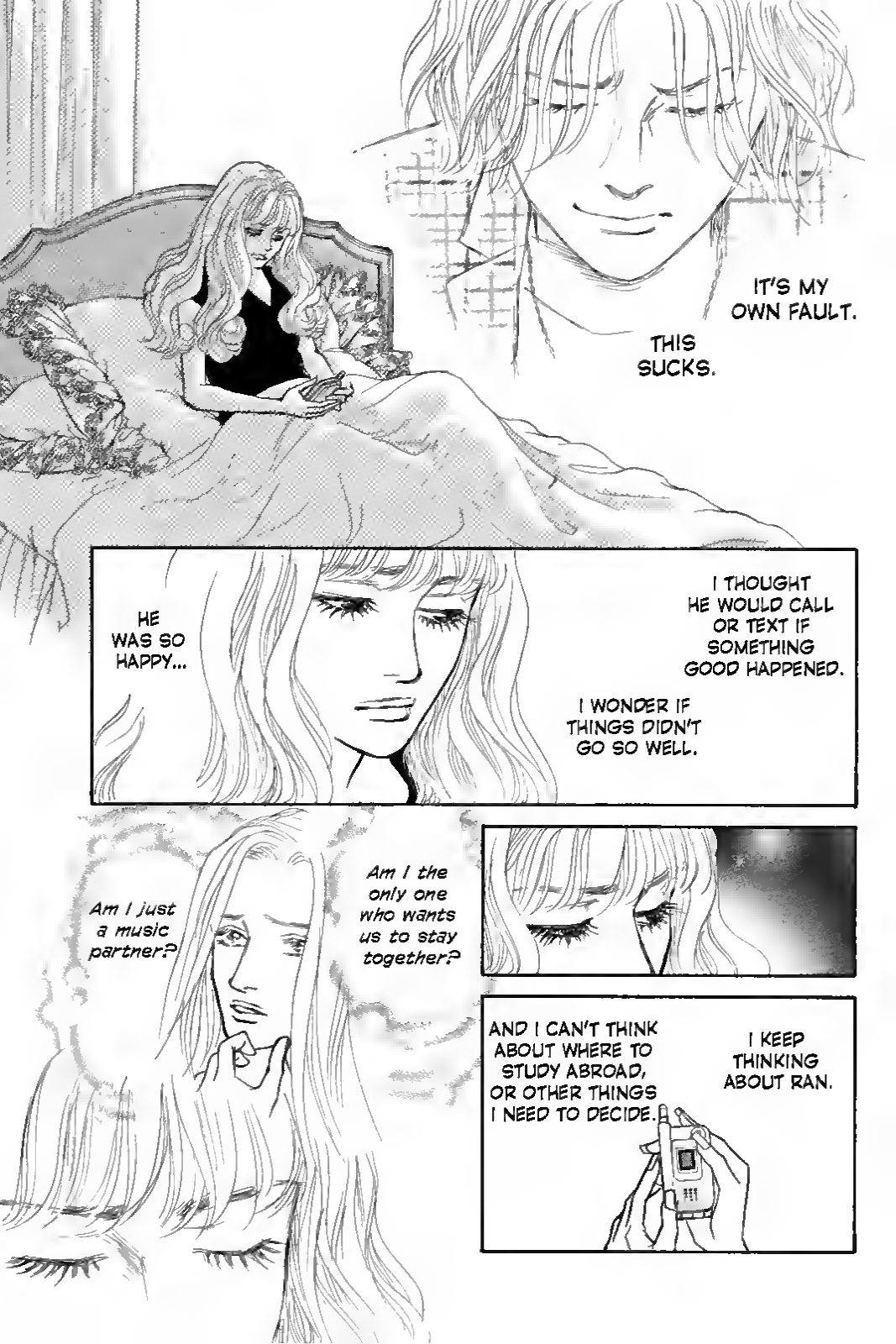

The elevator is here.
CAN I TRUST HER?
IF SHI FOUND OUT, WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO...

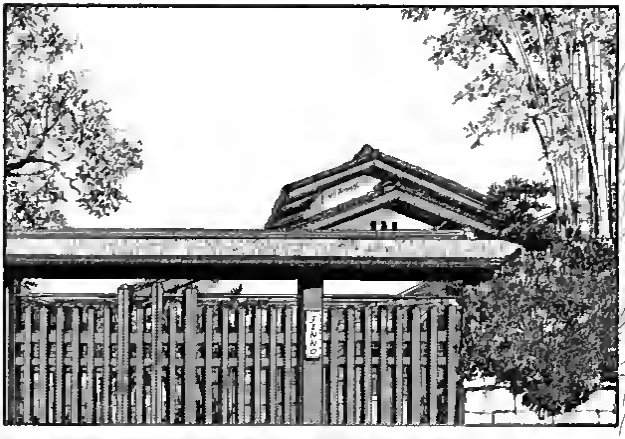

...SHI WOULD, NO DOUBT...
...DESPISE ME.
PSSSHT
I HAVE NO CHOICE.
THAT'S FINE.
I CAN FALL IN LOVE ANYTIME.
AND IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL.
EITHER WAY, SHE'S GOING AWAY TO STUDY ABROAD.
PSSSHT

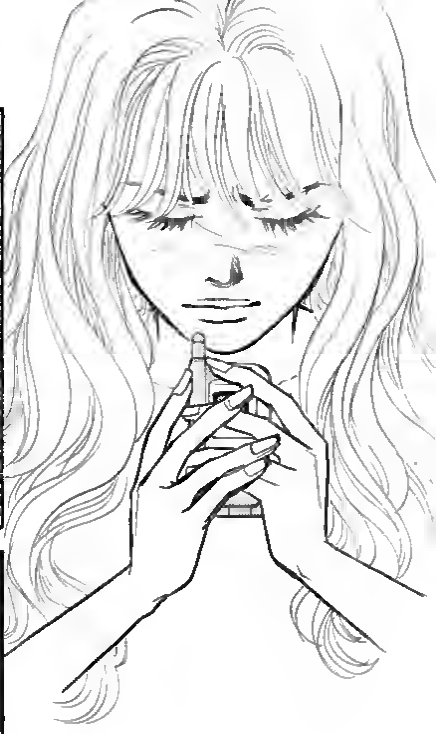

I CAN SLEEP WITH A WOMAN I LIKE JUST A LITTLE.
BUT TO THINK I COULD SLEEP...
...WITH SOMEONE I'VE WORSHIPPED!
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THE BIG OPPORTUNITY IN FRONT OF ME RIGHT NOW.
SRM IS AS GOOD AS BROKEN UP, AND STARTING OVER FROM SCRATCH IS OVERWHELMING.
Damn it!
Betty!!
I can't believe it! I must be an idiot!
What's wrong?


It's because you won't answer my calls!
Could you forgive me already?
I broke it off with that woman.
David?! Why are you in Japan?!
HUH?
WHAT?
SNEAK
...PROBABLY MEANS I SHOULD LEAVE THE KEY AND BAIL.
THEY'RE TALKING TOO FAST, SO I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THEM.
BUT THIS SITUATION...

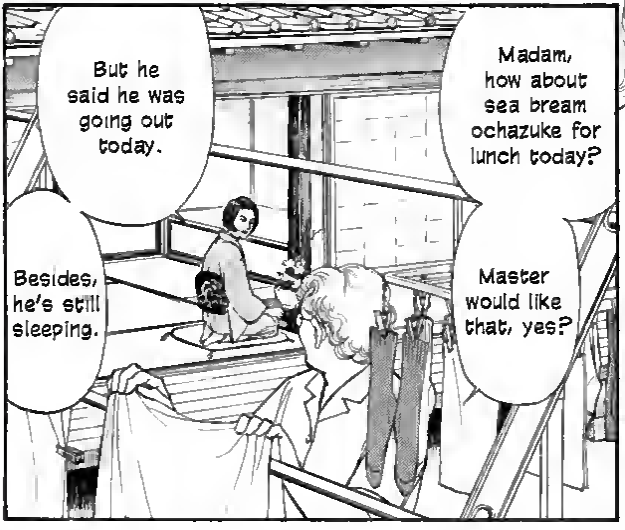
So who's this little boy?
He's a pianist! Don't injure his arm!
WHOA!
NO!! DaVid
I'm going to call the police!
Please stop!
Excuse me, but you're disturbing the other guests!
URGH
Ugh.
Oww...
THE STRIPES HOTEL TOKYO

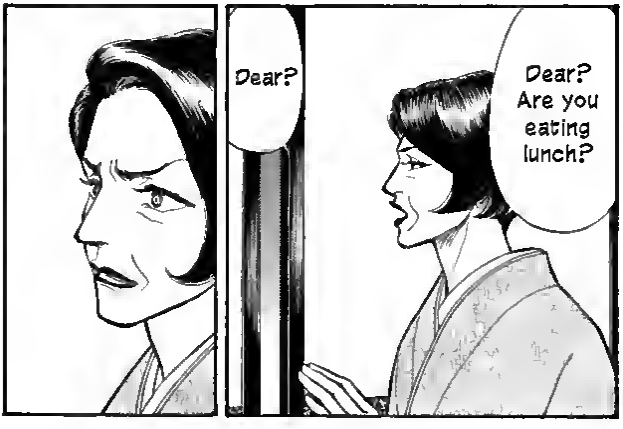

IT'S MY OWN FAULT.
THIS SUCKS.
HE WAS SO HAPPY...
I THOUGHT HE WOULD CALL OR TEXT IF SOMETHING GOOD HAPPENED.
I WONDER IF THINGS DIDN'T GO SO WELL.
Am I just a music partner?
Am I the only one who wants us to stay together?
AND I CAN'T THINK ABOUT WHERE TO STUDY ABROAD, OR OTHER THINGS I NEED TO DECIDE.
I KEEP THINKING ABOUT RAN.





WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

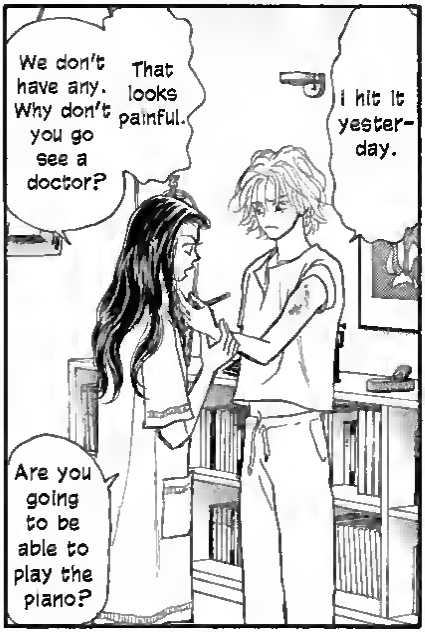

But he said he was going out today.
Madam, how about sea bream ochazuke for lunch today?
Besides, he's still sleeping.
Master would like that, yes?

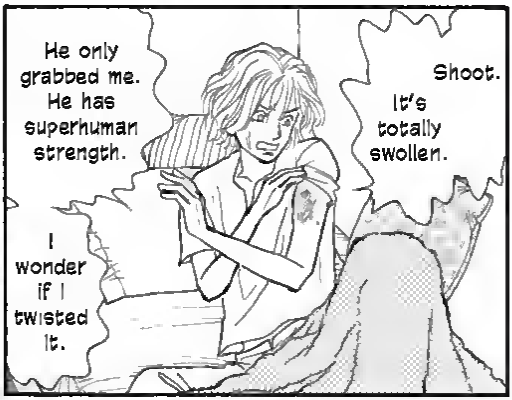


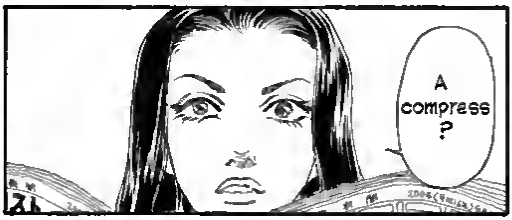
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TURN BACK NOW.

PRIDE 4

Oww.


We don't have any. Why don't you go see a doctor?
That looks painful.
I hit it yesterday.
Are you going to be able to play the piano?

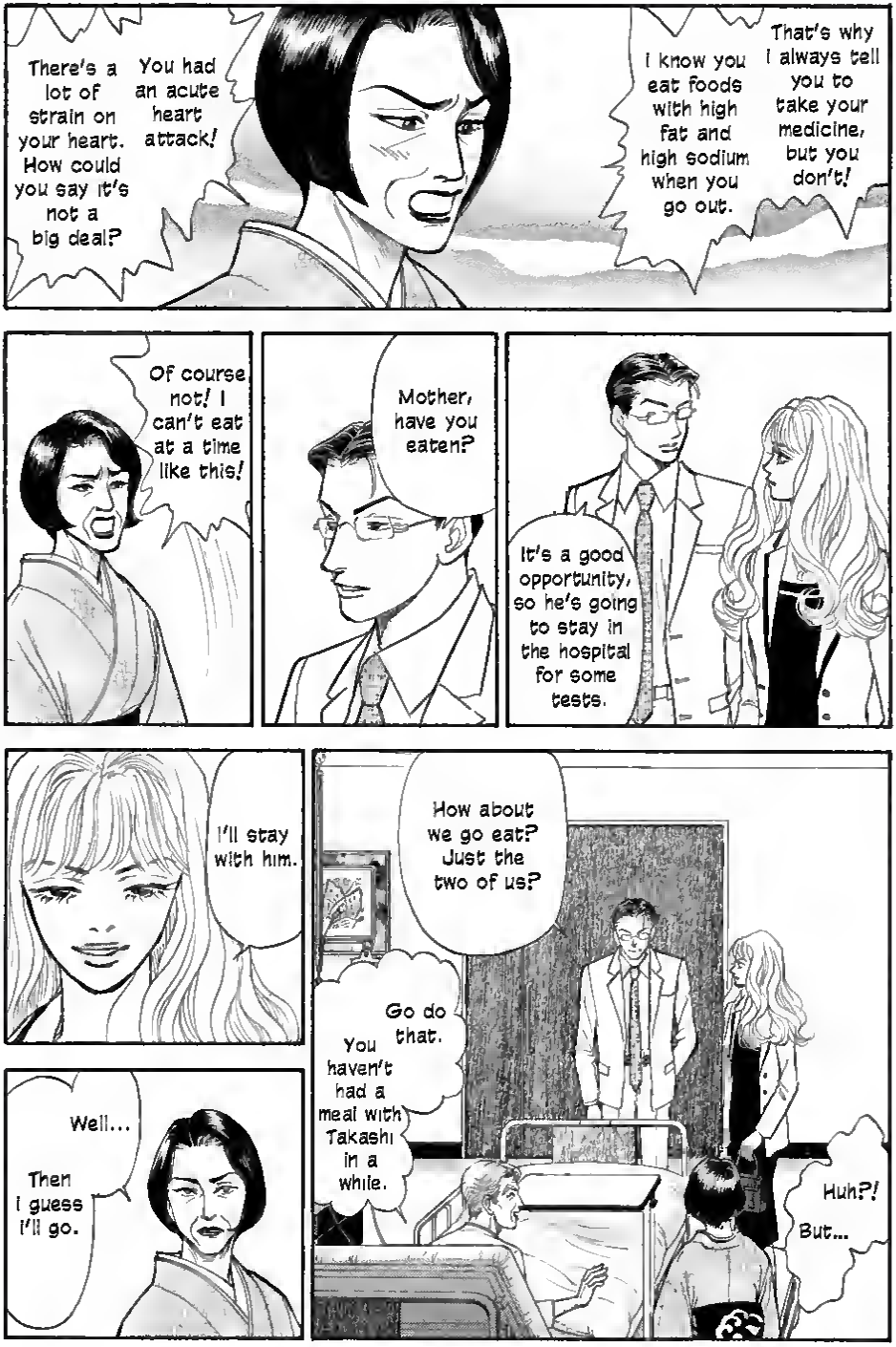

He only grabbed me. He has superhuman strength.
Shoot. It's totally swollen.
I wonder if I twisted it.


A compress?

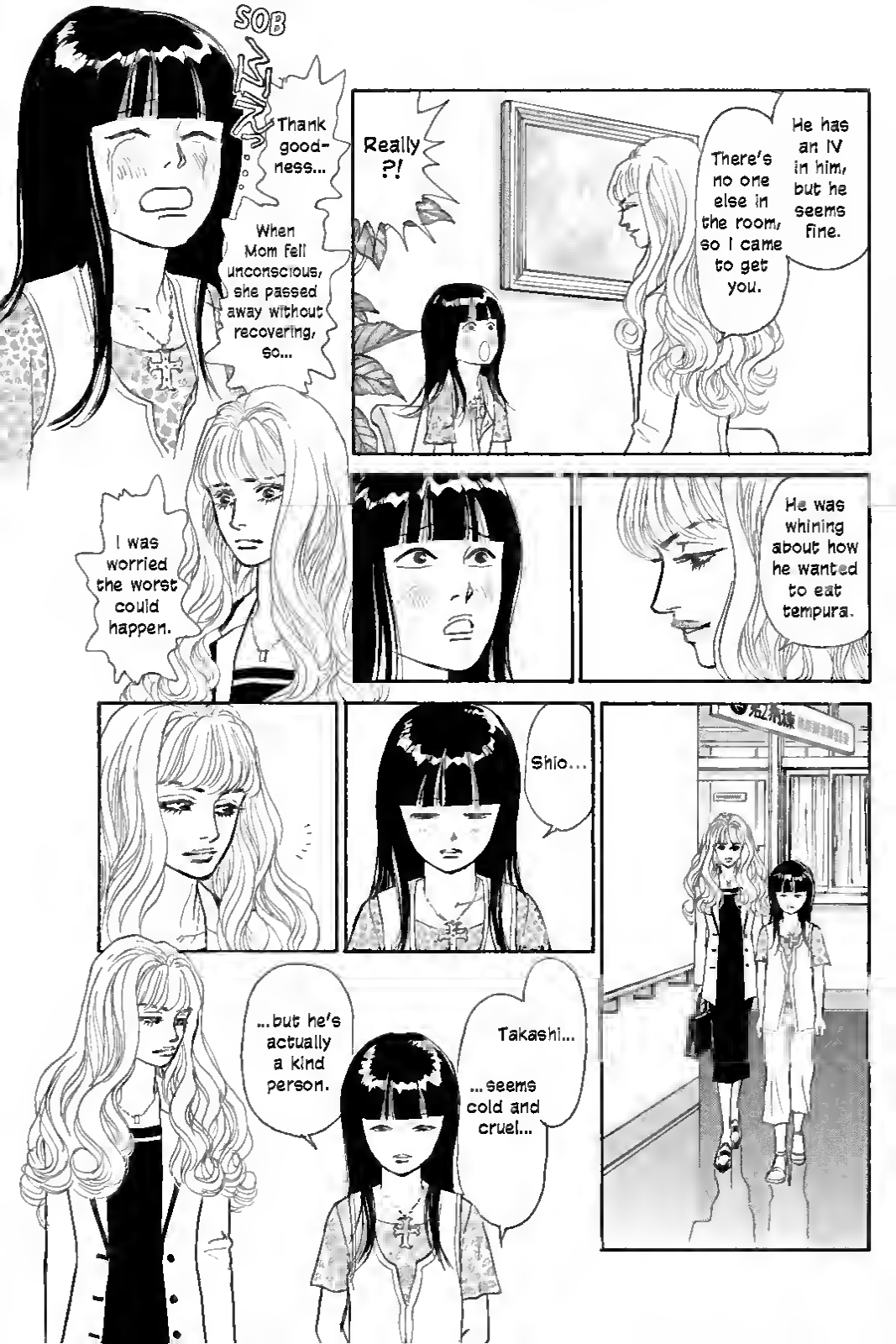
Sorry. I'll take tonight off.
I'm going to the doctor's.

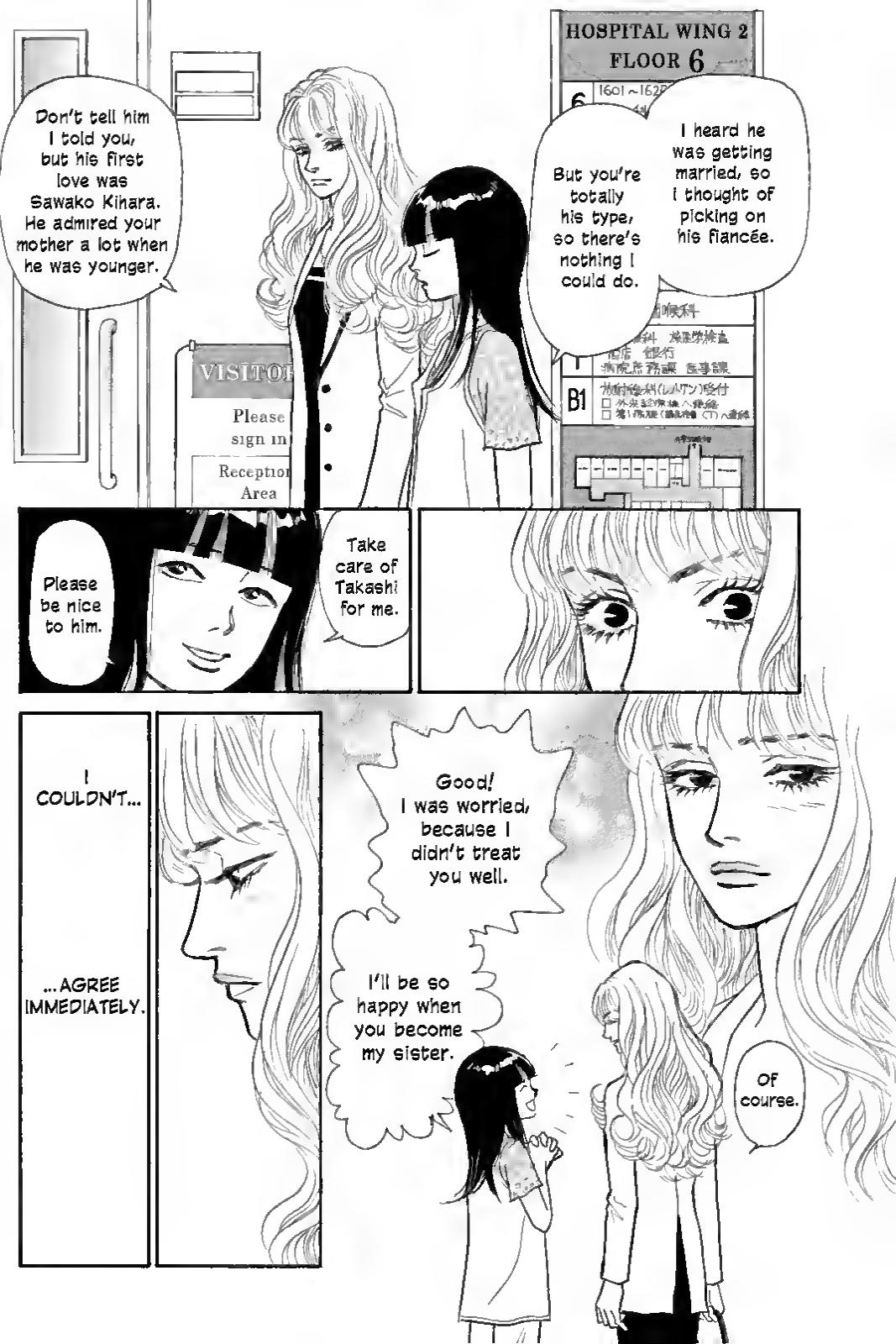
CLACK
CLACK
SCREECH
聖世羽病院
St. Johane's Hospital
Hey, Miss Shio.
Sorry to make you come all the way here. It's not a big deal.
I'm glad. I heard you lost consciousness.
It's because of my slightly high blood pressure.
I wouldn't call it slightly ...!

PRIDE 4

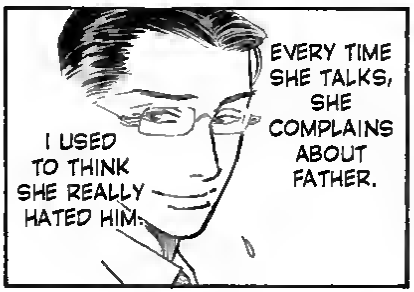

There's a lot of strain on your heart. How could you say it's not a big deal?
You had an acute heart attack!
I know you eat foods with high fat and high sodium when you go out.
That's why I always tell you to take your medicine, but you don't!
Of course not! I can't eat at a time like this!
Mother, have you eaten?
It's a good opportunity, so he's going to stay in the hospital for some tests.
I'll stay with him.
How about we go eat? Just the two of us?
Go do that.
You haven't had a meal with Takashi in a while.
Huh?!
But...
Well...
Then I guess I'll go.

I SEE.
OF COURSE.
Yes.
Take me, too!
That sounds good.
Why don't we get a tatami room to enjoy tempura to spite him?
Could you bring her here?
Eiko's waiting in the café.
He's fine.
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE HAS TO SNEAK AROUND TO SEE HER FATHER.

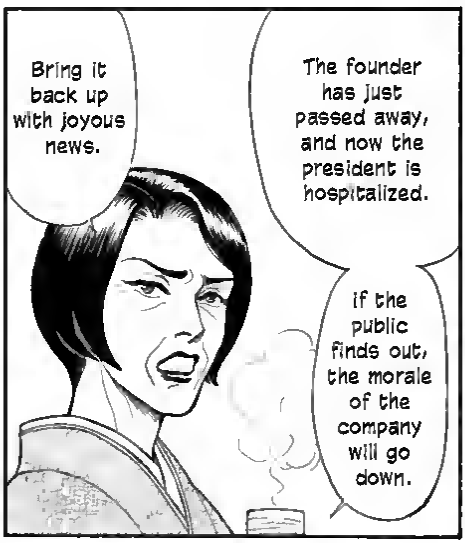

SOB
Thank goodness...
When Mom fell unconscious, she passed away without recovering, so...
I was worried the worst could happen.
Really ?!
There's no one else in the room, so I came to get you.
He has an IV in him, but he seems fine.
He was whining about how he wanted to eat tempura.
Shio...
...but he's actually a kind person.
Takashi...
...seems cold and cruel...

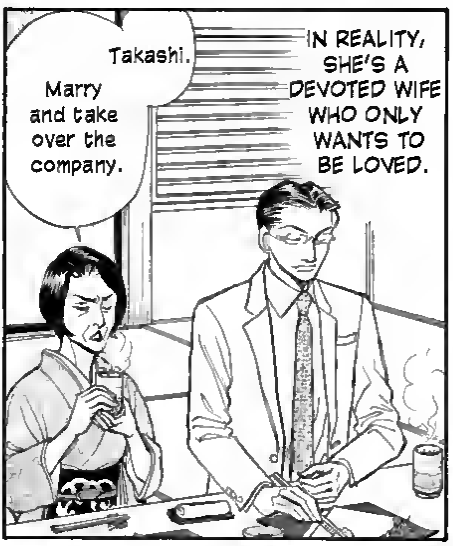

Don't tell him I told you, but his first love was Sawako Kihara. He admired your mother a lot when he was younger.
But you're totally his type, so there's nothing I could do.
I heard he was getting married, so I thought of picking on his fiancée.
HOSPITAL WING 2
FLOOR 6
B1
VISITOR
Please sign in
Reception Area
Please be nice to him.
Take care of Takashi for me.
I COULDN'T...
...AGREE IMMEDIATELY.
Good! I was worried, because I didn't treat you well.
I'll be so happy when you become my sister.
Of course.

He's eaten a lot until now, so it's fine.
This is octopus from the Akashi region.
This is delicious.
How sad your father can't eat something so good.

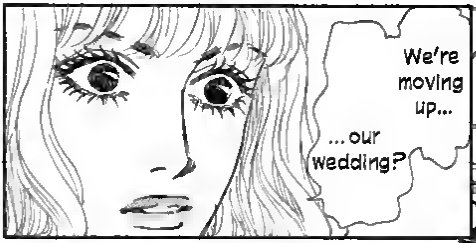

I USED TO THINK SHE REALLY HATED HIM.
EVERY TIME SHE TALKS, SHE COMPLAINS ABOUT FATHER.

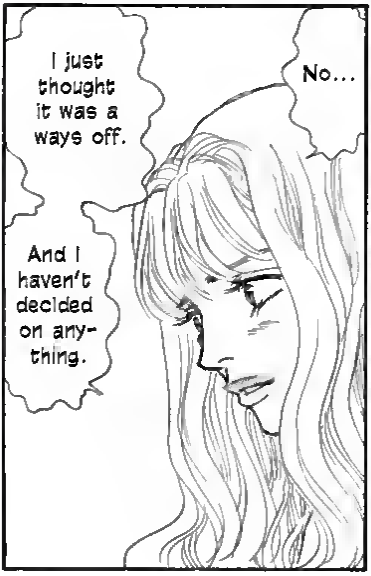
He hardly takes me out to eat, other than for business.
Exactly. He even lets a mistress run a restaurant.

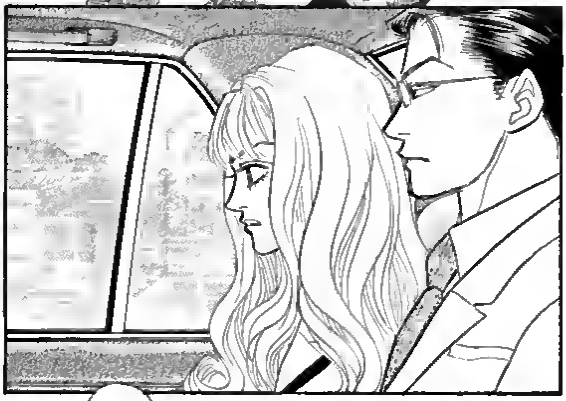

Bring it back up with joyous news.
The founder has just passed away, and now the president is hospitalized.
If the public finds out, the morale of the company will go down.

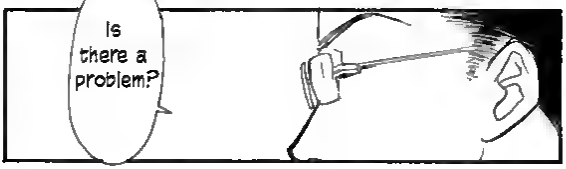

Takashi.
Marry and take over the company.
IN REALITY, SHE'S A DEVOTED WIFE WHO ONLY WANTS TO BE LOVED.

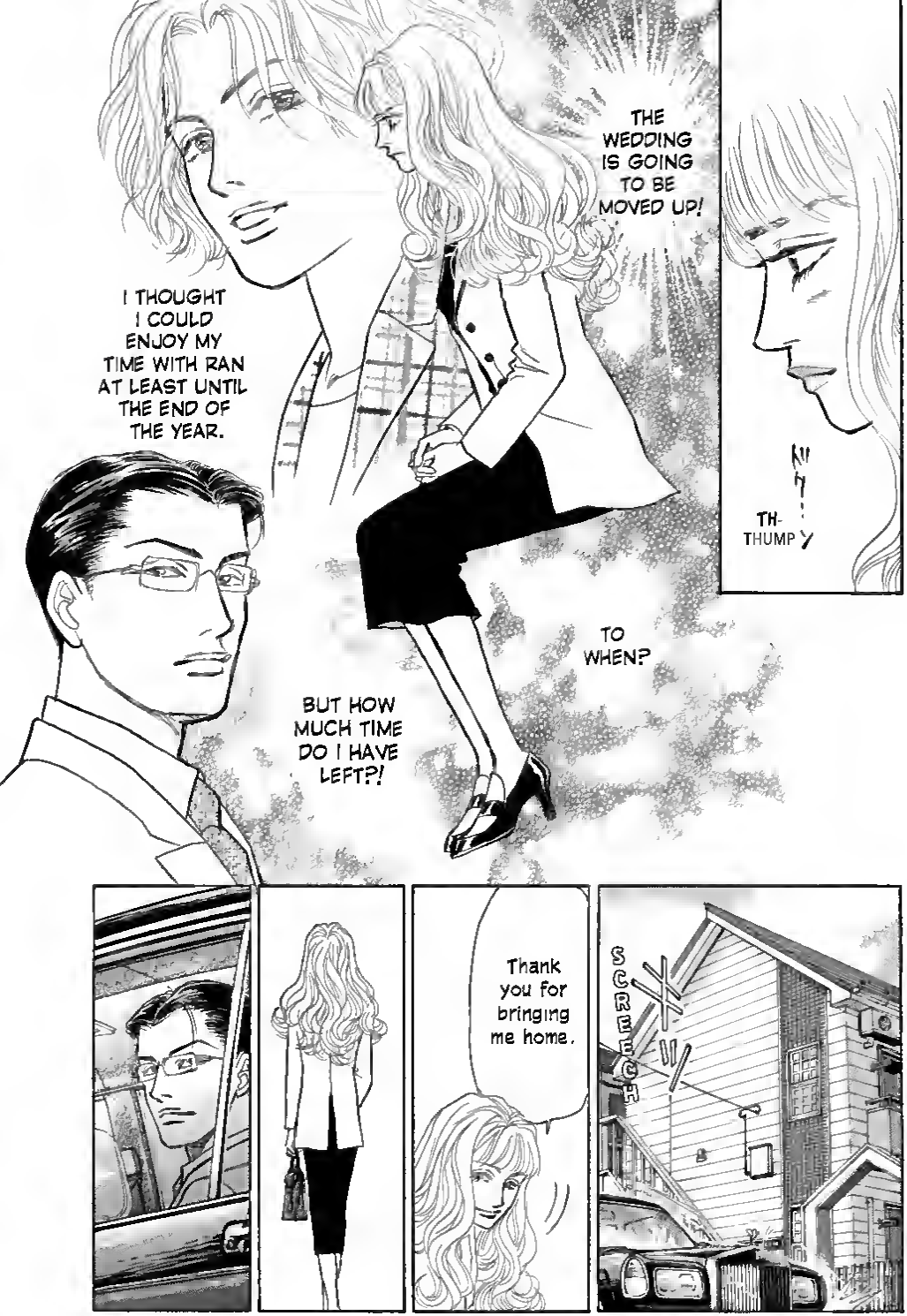
How unusual...
...for you to agree with me.
You're right.


We're moving up...
...our wedding?

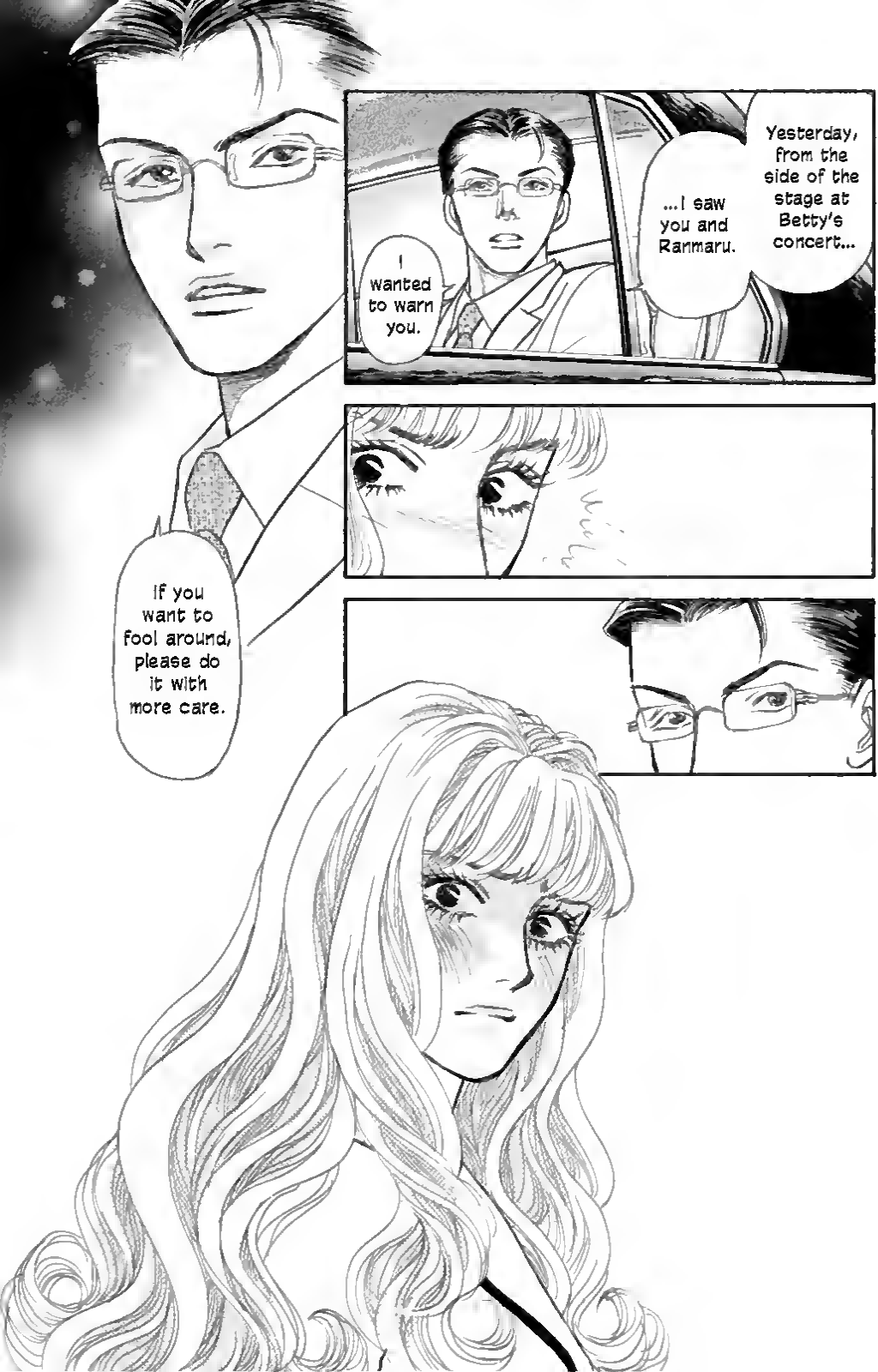

No...
I just thought it was a ways off.
And I haven't decided on anything.




Is there a problem?


THE WEDDING IS GOING TO BE MOVED UP!
I THOUGHT I COULD ENJOY MY TIME WITH RAN AT LEAST UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR.
TH-THUMP
TO WHEN?
BUT HOW MUCH TIME DO I HAVE LEFT?!
Thank you for bringing me home.
SCREECH

Shio.
HE CALLED ME BY MY FIRST NAME!
Huh?
I forgot to tell you some-thing.
That's an honor.
No other Japanese man calls me that.
If you don't like it, shall I call you something else?
You said I can call you by anything as long as it wasn't Shi.
No.

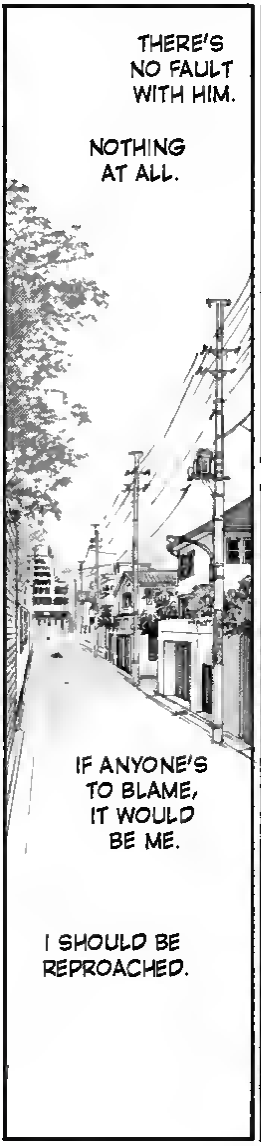

Yesterday, from the side of the stage at Betty's concert...
...I saw you and Ranmaru.
I wanted to warn you.
If you want to fool around, please do it with more care.

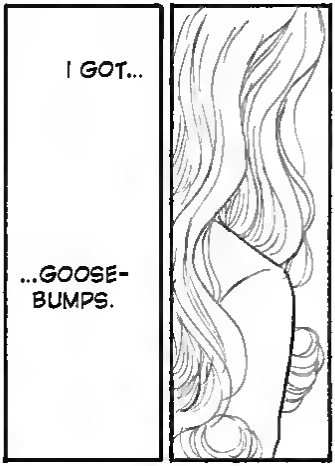
If you're bored with dresses, maybe you could wear a kimono.
You're going to be the wife of the president of Queen Record.
Why don't you think about wedding dress designs?
VROOM
You can add him to the guest list if you'd like.
You can let him see you on your most beautiful day.
As you wish.
Shio.
Takashi...
...seems cold and cruel...
...but he's actually a kind person.

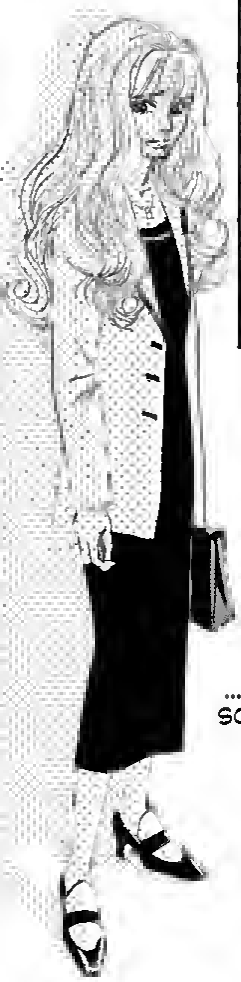
PRIDE 4

Please be nice to him.
Take care of Takashi for me.

I'M SCARED.

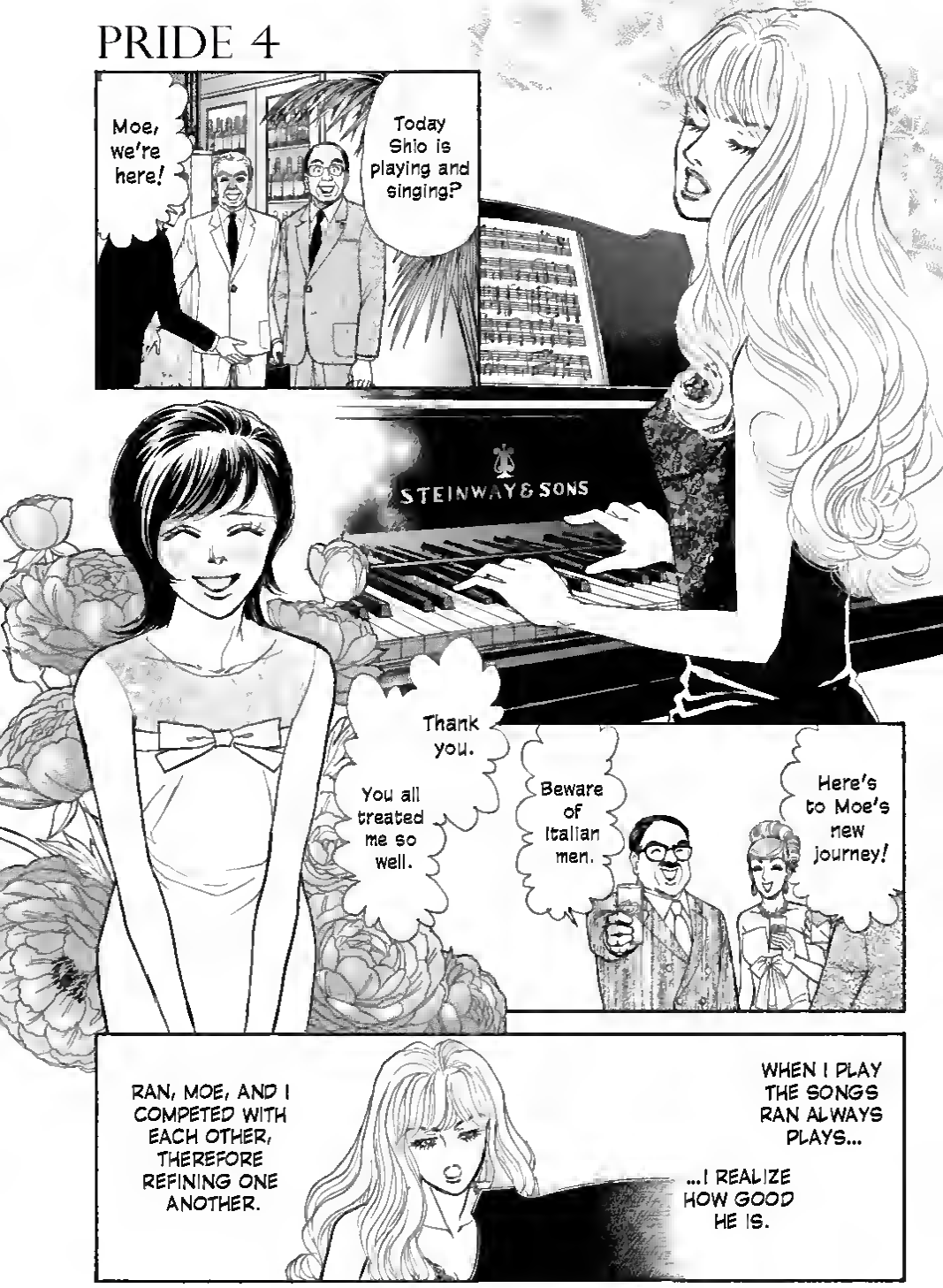

THERE'S NO FAULT WITH HIM.
NOTHING AT ALL.
IF ANYONE'S TO BLAME, IT WOULD BE ME.
I SHOULD BE REPROACHED.

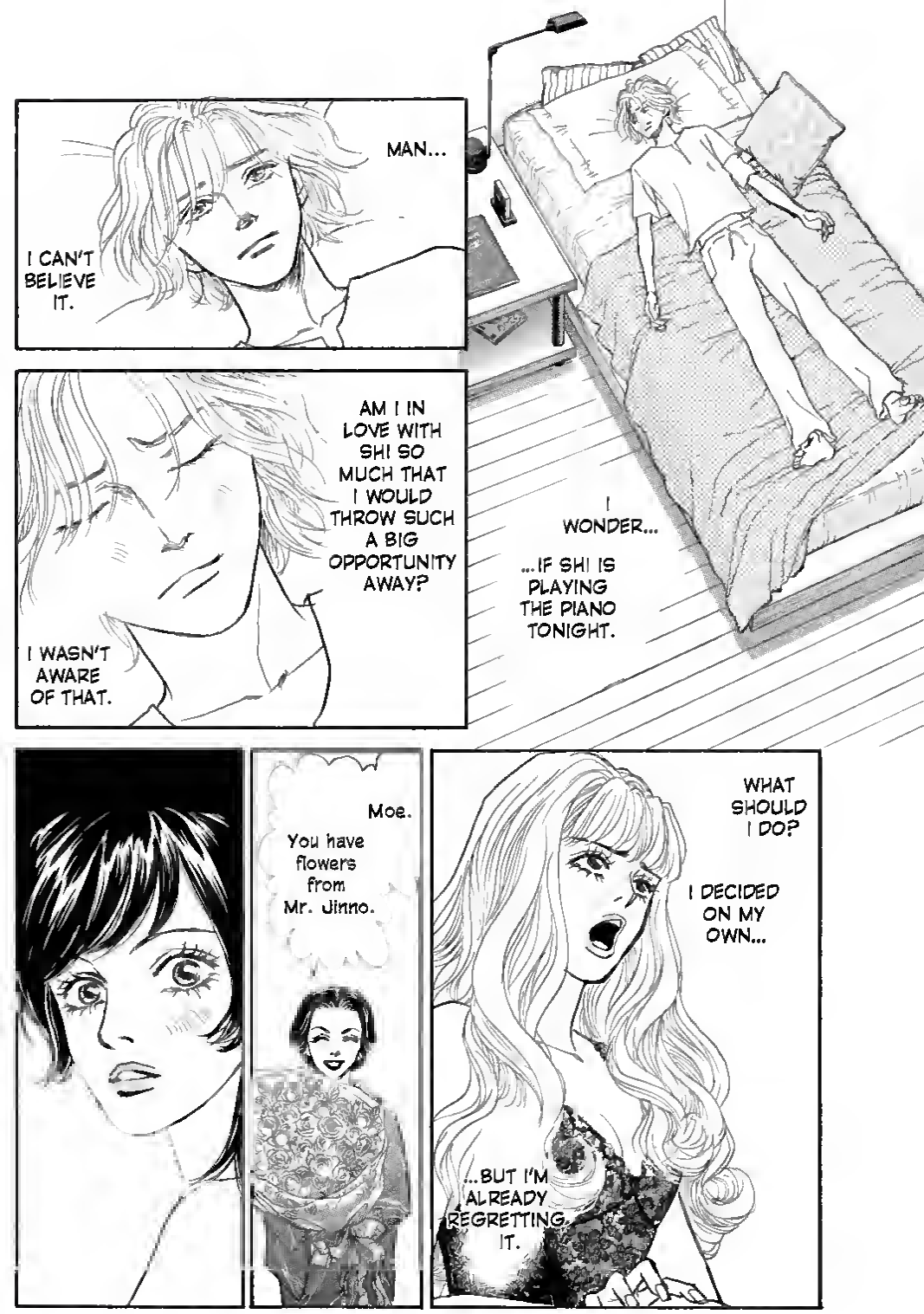

I GOT...
...GOOSE-BUMPS.

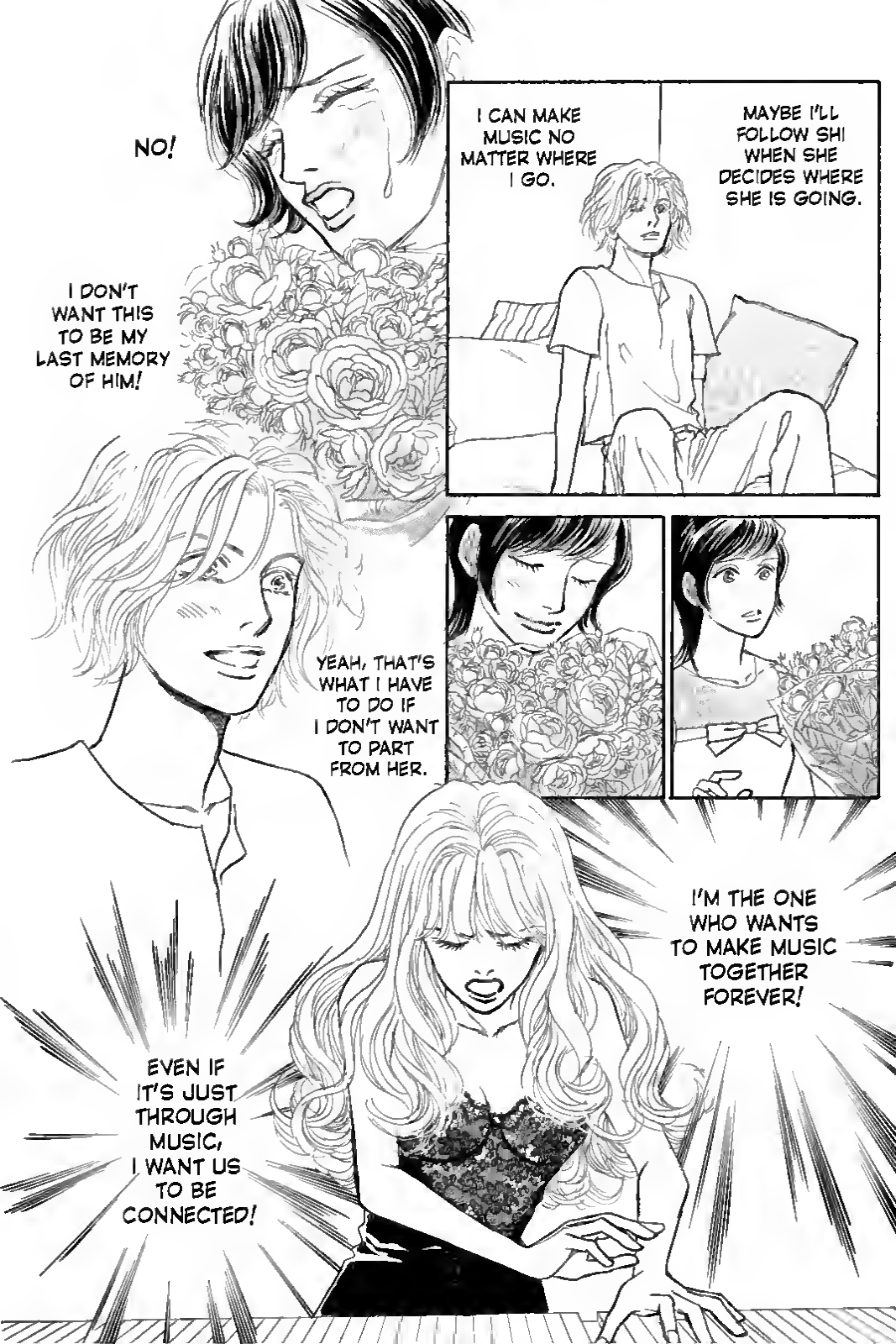

EVEN THOUGH HE RESPECTS ME SO MUCH...
...WHY AM I SO SCARED?

He hit his arm and it's swollen up.
Ran... ...isn't here tonight?
KORYUU
SERRA
PRIMA DONNA
PRIMA DONNA
SATOSHI
CLUB KIKUMI
INZA YANAGI BLD
7
Would you be OK on your own?
He went to the doctor today.
Can you play and sing?
WHAT?!
Is he OK?!
It's Moe's last day, so it may be rowdy. But liven up the club for her.
Then please do that.
...but I think I can manage.
I haven't played for a while...
HIS ARMS ARE SO IMPORTANT TO HIM AS A PIANIST.
IS HE GOING TO BE OK?

PRIDE 4


Moe, we're here!
Today Shio is playing and singing?
STEINWAY & SONS
Thank you.
You all treated me so well.
Beware of Italian men.
Here's to Moe's new journey!
RAN, MOE, AND I COMPETED WITH EACH OTHER, THEREFORE REFINING ONE ANOTHER.
WHEN I PLAY THE SONGS RAN ALWAYS PLAYS...
...I REALIZE HOW GOOD HE IS.


MAN...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
AM I IN LOVE WITH SHI SO MUCH THAT I WOULD THROW SUCH A BIG OPPORTUNITY AWAY?
I WASN'T AWARE OF THAT.
I WONDER...
...IF SHI IS PLAYING THE PIANO TONIGHT.
Moe.
You have flowers from Mr. Jinno.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I DECIDED ON MY OWN...
...BUT I'M ALREADY REGRETTING IT.


NO!
I DON'T WANT THIS TO BE MY LAST MEMORY OF HIM!
I CAN MAKE MUSIC NO MATTER WHERE I GO.
MAYBE I'LL FOLLOW SHI WHEN SHE DECIDES WHERE SHE IS GOING.
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I HAVE TO DO IF I DON'T WANT TO PART FROM HER.
I'M THE ONE WHO WANTS TO MAKE MUSIC TOGETHER FOREVER!
EVEN IF IT'S JUST THROUGH MUSIC, I WANT US TO BE CONNECTED!

PRIDE 4

You won't be able to enjoy Ginza for a while.
Yeah. Tonight's really your last night.
Let's party some more.
Moe, you're really going home?
She must still have preparations to make.
Let her go home.
AUDREY'S CLUB
MAKIRO
ELSINORE
KORYUU
SERRA
PRIMA DONNA
PRIMA DONNA
SATOSHI
GINZA YANAGI BLD

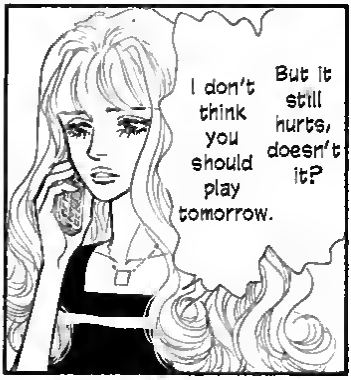
Yes.
Thank you very much.
You were a good hostess. Good job.
I hope you do well in Italy.
We'll contact you if we're ever in Italy!
Good luck!
THIS IS THE END.
I WANT TO SEE HIM ONE LAST TIME.

STUPID ME! I DECIDED THAT I WAS GOING TO GIVE UP!
VISITING AT THIS HOUR WILL ONLY TROUBLE HIM.
BUT WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
SLAM
VROOM
Mr. Jinno...

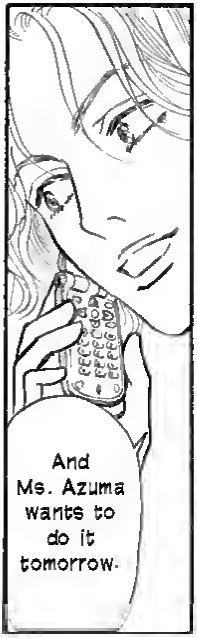
But I wanted to see you...
I know that you wouldn't even look at me.
I know that I'm a nuisance.
...before I go to Italy.
I...
...um...
Um, I wanted to thank you for the flowers.
I'm sorry to bother you.
...if it's just for one night.
I don't care...
Could you please invite me to your bedroom?

Am I that unattractive?
No.
That's not the issue here.
Do you already have someone?
No.

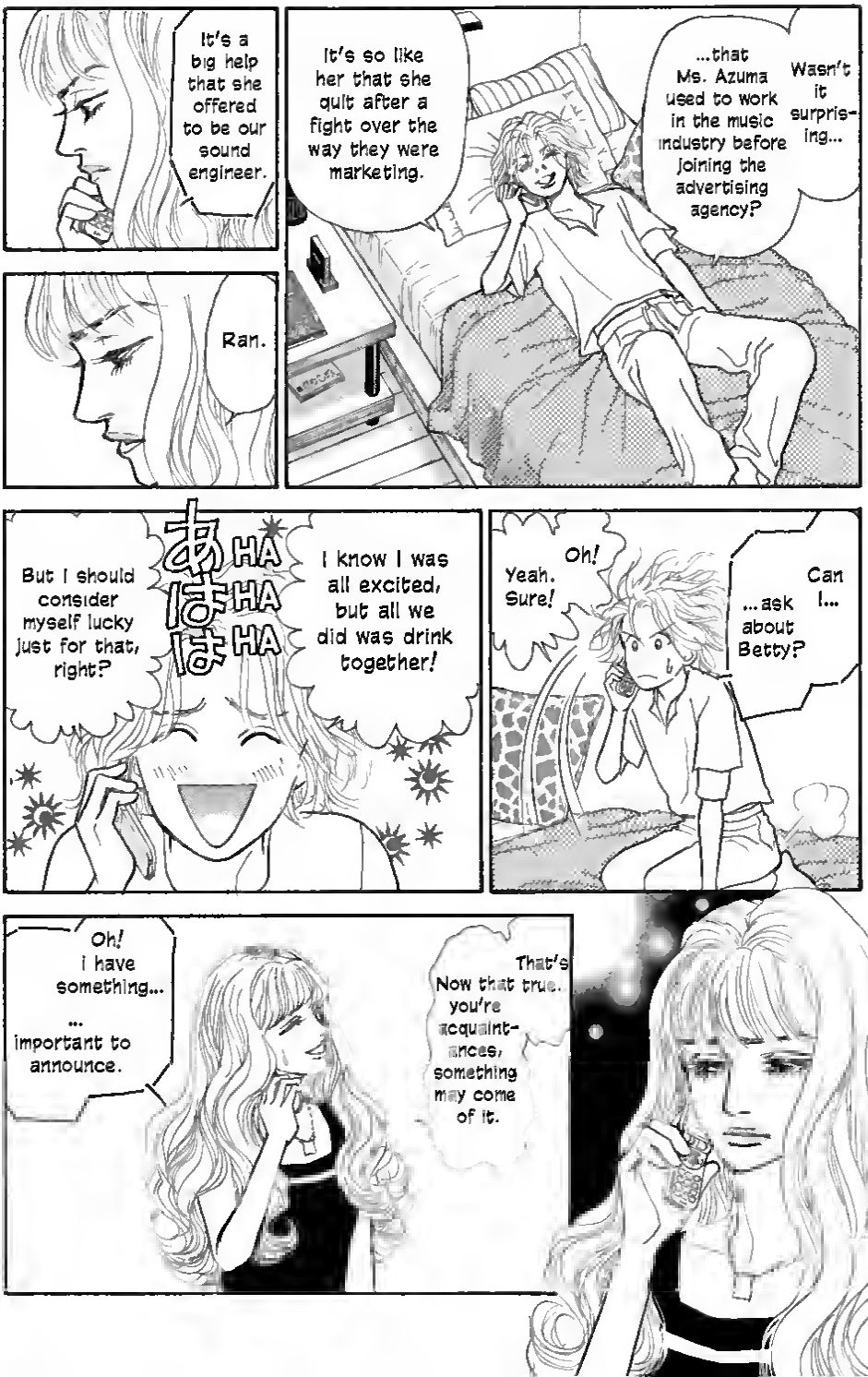
I would say yes... if you were the type who could handle a one-night stand.
I like you enough to spend the night with you.
I'm sorry to embarrass you, but it's not that I don't like you.
One night...
...would be fine.
Good night.
I'll see you off at Narita.
I have a policy not to get involved with lovesick women.

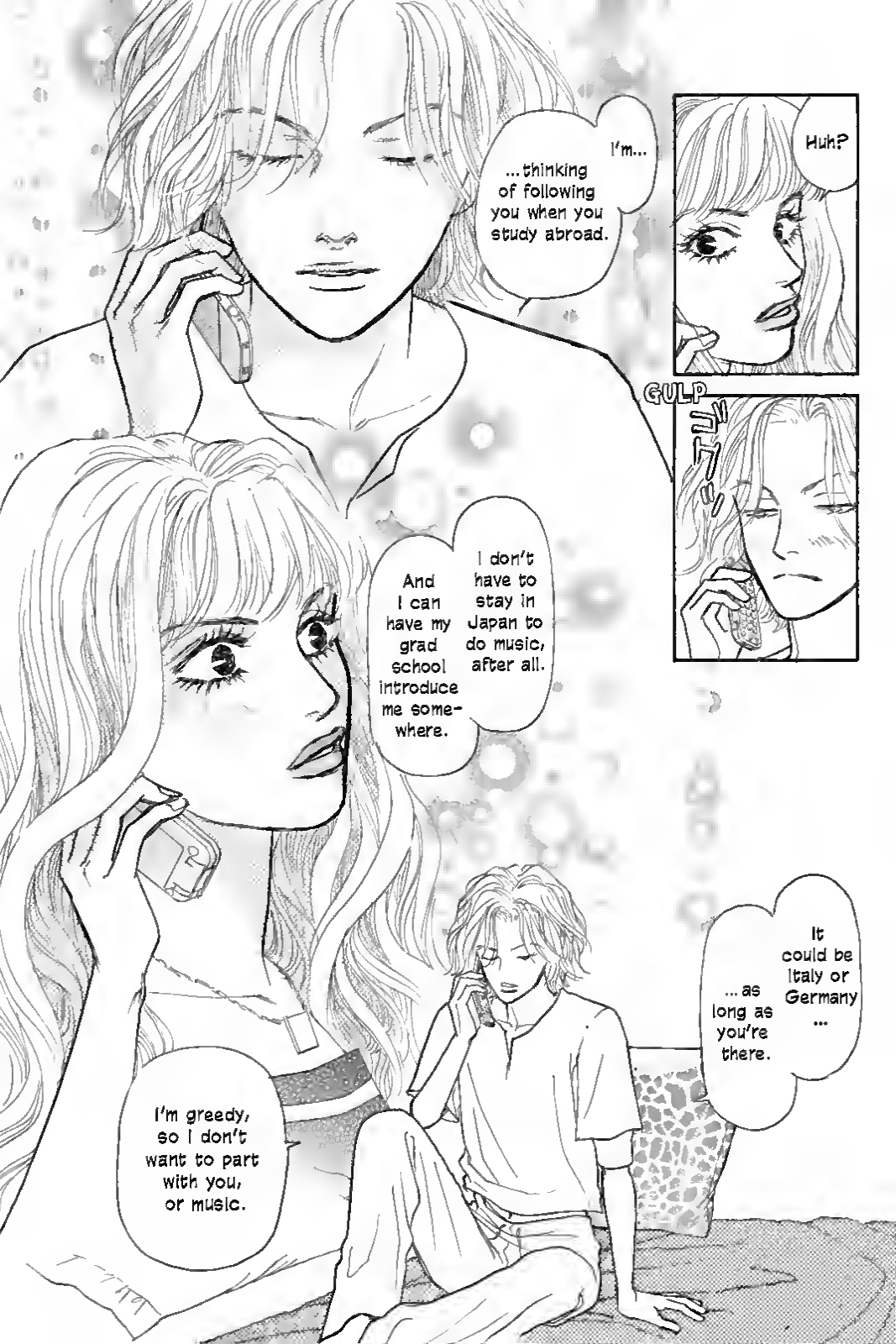

I don't think you should play tomorrow.
But it still hurts, doesn't it?

The swelling's gone down, so I can play.
Oh. Yeah.


And Ms. Azuma wants to do it tomorrow.

Besides, the studio's booked already.
No, she must be busy with last-minute packing.
Maybe we can ask Moe if we could postpone recording for a few days.


It's a big help that she offered to be our sound engineer.
Ran.
It's so like her that she quit after a fight over the way they were marketing.
...that Ms. Azuma used to work in the music industry before joining the advertising agency?
Wasn't it surprising...
I know I was all excited, but all we did was drink together!
あはは
HA HA HA
But I should consider myself lucky just for that, right?
Oh!
Yeah. Sure!
...ask about Betty?
Can I...
Oh! I have something... ... important to announce.
That's true. Now you're acquaintances, something may come of it.


I'm...
...thinking of following you when you study abroad.
Huh?
GULP
ゴクッ
I don't have to stay in Japan to do music, after all.
And I can have my grad school introduce me somewhere.
I'm greedy, so I don't want to part with you, or music.
It could be Italy or Germany ...
...as long as you're there.

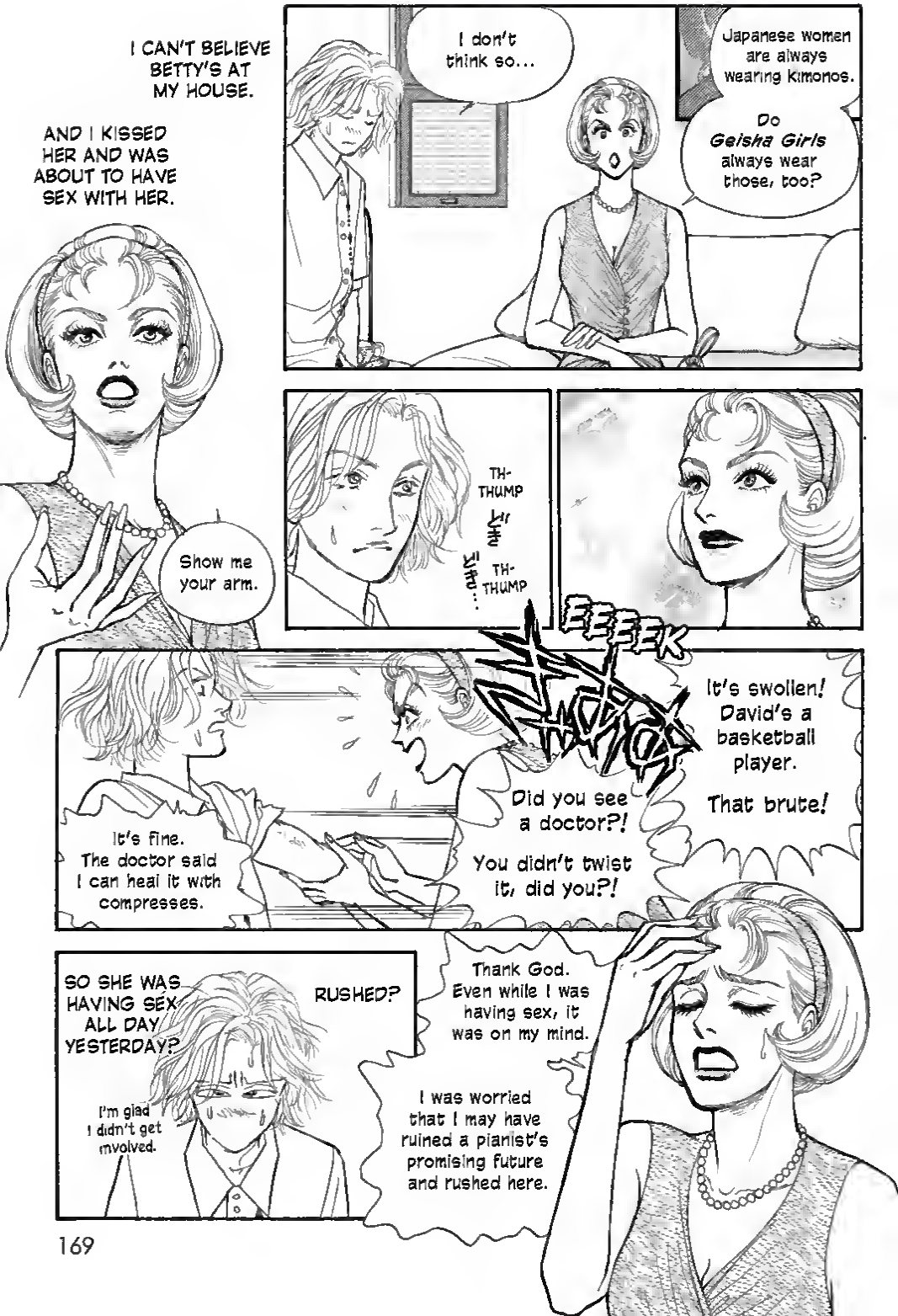
Good.
Then sleep well tonight.
Let's have the best recording session ever tomorrow.
Am I being stalker-ish?
Is it creepy?
No!

STUDYING ABROAD...
...WITH RAN.
MILAN?
BAVARIA?
OH, BUT I WANT TO GO TO VIENNA, TOO.
I DIDN'T EVEN THINK OF IT.
TO GO ABROAD WITH RAN...
WE CAN WALK ALONG THE STONE PAVEMENT TO THE OPERA HOUSE.
I WANT TO SPEND WEEKENDS SINGING RAN'S SONGS.
If you want to fool around, please do it with more care.

You're going to be the wife of the president of Queen Record.
You can add him to the guest list if you'd like.
I'd appreciate it if you would return that ring to me only at a time when I'm clearly at fault.
Shio.
I THOUGHT HE WAS SCARY.
LIKE HE WOULD NEVER FORGIVE ME IF I WERE TO BETRAY HIM.
FEARSOMENESS THAT SHOWED A LITTLE BEHIND HIS KINDNESS.

I CHOSE TO MARRY MR. JINNO BECAUSE HE UNDERSTOOD HOW MUCH I WANTED TO SING
HE WANTED A WIFE.
I WANTED THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP MY SINGING.
IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE WITH MONEY WOULD HAVE SUFFICED.
I THOUGHT I COULD GET ALONG WITH HIM.
I CHOSE TO MARRY HIM...
...AS IF I WAS MARRYING MUSIC.
I COULDN'T BE RAN'S DIVA...
...AND I WAS SO MISERABLE.
BUT NOTHING IS SET IN STONE YET.
WE'RE NOT MARRIED YET.
I WOULD RATHER MAKE MUSIC WITH RAN THAN STUDY ABROAD.
CLICK
カチ
HE GAVE ME A RING WITH A HUGE DIAMOND ON IT.
AND HE INTRODUCED ME TO HIS PARENTS.

Yawn...
Who could it be so early in the morning?
We're out of coffee! I'm going to get some!
We have to clean up!
SLAM
Please make yourself at home.
Don't walk around looking like that! Hurry! We have to clean!
Be-Be-Betty's coming!


I CAN'T BELIEVE BETTY'S AT MY HOUSE.
AND I KISSED HER AND WAS ABOUT TO HAVE SEX WITH HER.
I don't think so...
Japanese women are always wearing kimonos.
Do Geisha Girls always wear those, too?
Show me your arm.
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
EEEEK
It's swollen! David's a basketball player.
That brute!
Did you see a doctor?!
You didn't twist it, did you?!
It's fine. The doctor said I can heal it with compresses.
SO SHE WAS HAVING SEX ALL DAY YESTERDAY?
RUSHED?
I'm glad I didn't get involved.
Thank God. Even while I was having sex, it was on my mind.
I was worried that I may have ruined a pianist's promising future and rushed here.

That sounds lovely, too, but I have a policy not to sleep with staff members.
It only brings trouble.
Hee hee, thank you.
I like Takashi too, but he's a little too old.
Any man over 30 is too old. I prefer teenagers.
I'm glad that you reconciled with your boyfriend.
Hey, aren't you 36?
As your pet?
I don't think I could satisfy your sexual needs.
So to make it up to you, I'll invite you to my world tour starting in the beginning of next year.
Staff...?
You'd be my gofer.

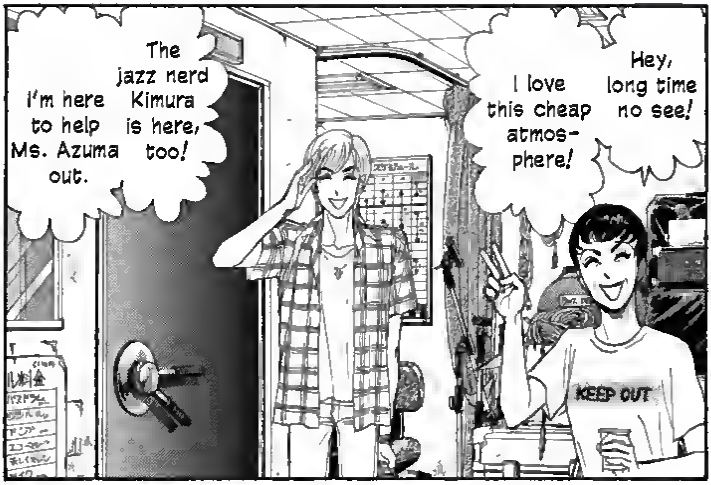
I like your music.
Your piano technique is pretty good, but you can't make it as a pro yet.
You should learn from me.
Wow.
I'm going to Osaka today, and to Fukuoka tomorrow.
Give me your response by then.
The world tour is six months long. Your days off are only when we're traveling.
You can negotiate your salary.
My current one is so inconsiderate. He annoys me.
And I would enjoy my tour more if I had a cute boy on staff.
Wouldn't people call that a pet?

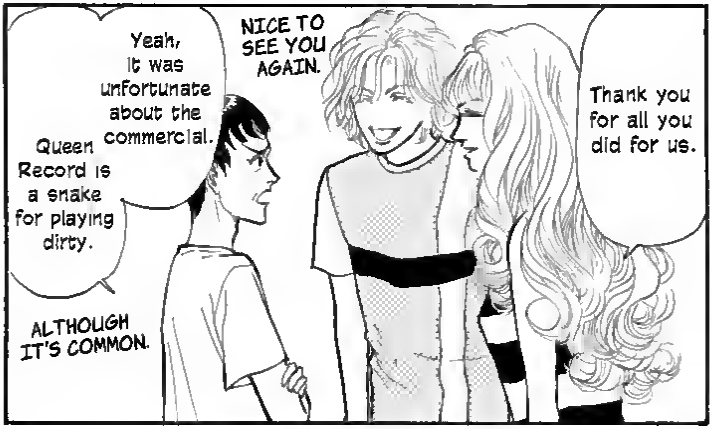
AND I CAN SEE BEHIND-THE-SCENES OF THE TECHNIQUE OF THE VERY BEST. YOU CAN'T EVEN PAY TO DO THAT.
SIX MONTHS.
I CAN LISTEN TO BETTY PLAYING THE PIANO LIVE FOR SIX MONTHS!
BUT I COULD GET A SALARY ...?
I told Shi...
...that I'd accompany her abroad.
Hello, do you even have to consider it?
Is there a problem with that offer?

PRIDE 4

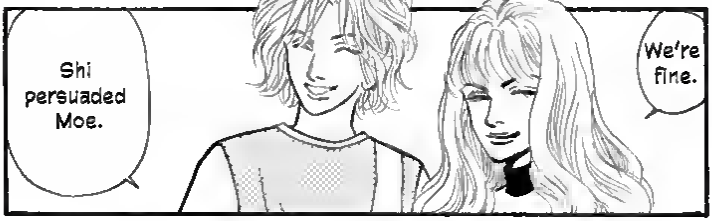
If Shio finds out about this, she'll tell you to go.
What?!
She can wait for six months!
Yeah.
She'll definitely do that.
I can make music on my own.
But I can't be in love without her.
But...
...I don't think I should be apart from her right now.
I know this is a big opportunity.
But it's an important time for Shi and me, too.
Do you think I'm an idiot?
For the first time, I'm blinded by love.

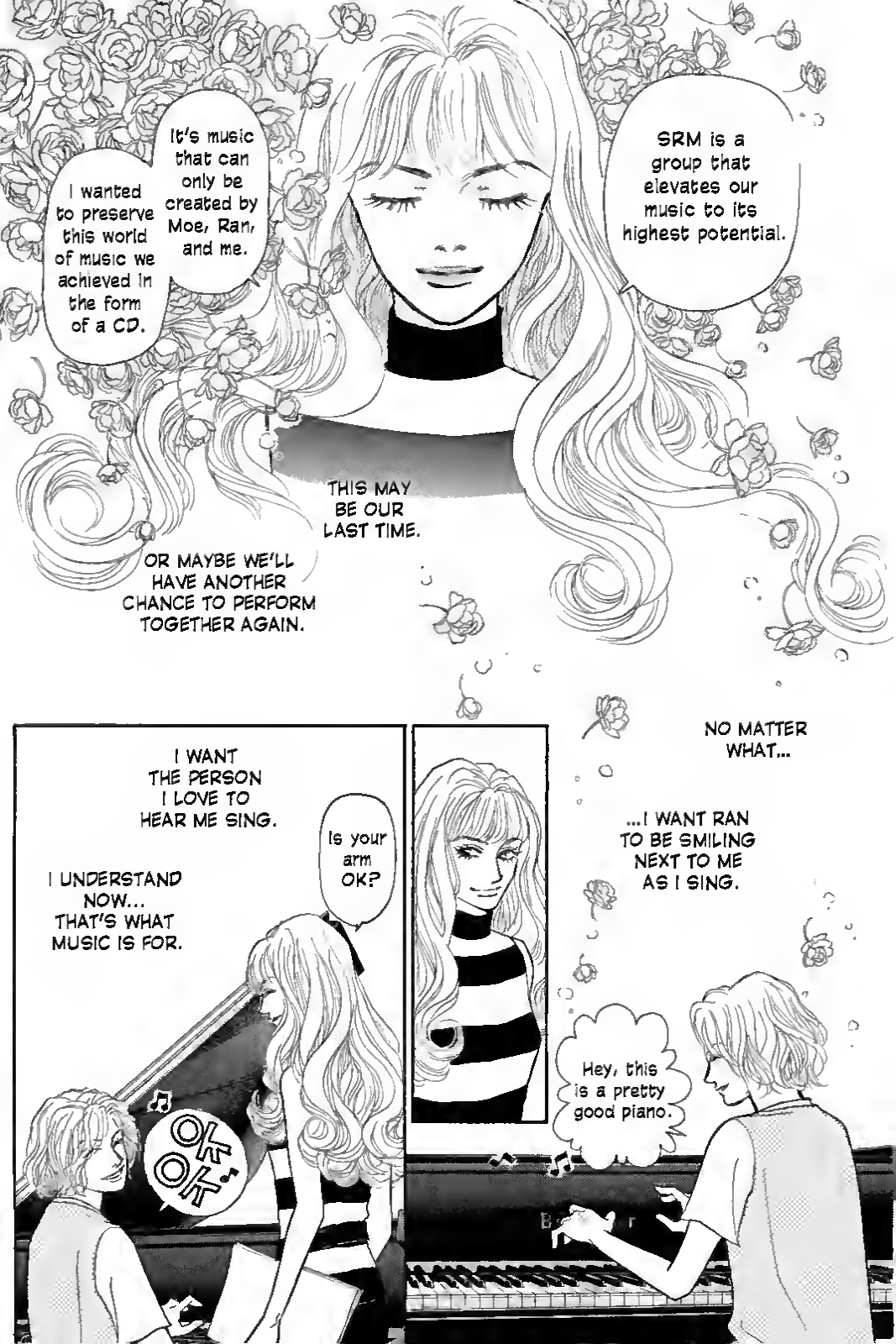
Stupid, stupid, stupid!
YOU'RE THE BIGGEST IDIOT!!
STUPID !!
I canceled my debut at the last minute to run off with a man to give birth to you!
You don't have to take after me in this way!
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING !!
How mean.
Don't tell Shi about this.
She'll get so mad.
STUDIO OX
It's in your blood.
WHAT...?
THUNK
You should save up to start a bar.
I guess you're going to be in the bar business or become an unsuccessful composer!
Don't worry, you'd excel at both
I DON'T WANT THAT!


I'm here to help Ms. Azuma out.
The jazz nerd Kimura is here, too!
I love this cheap atmos-phere!
Hey, long time no see!
KEEP OUT

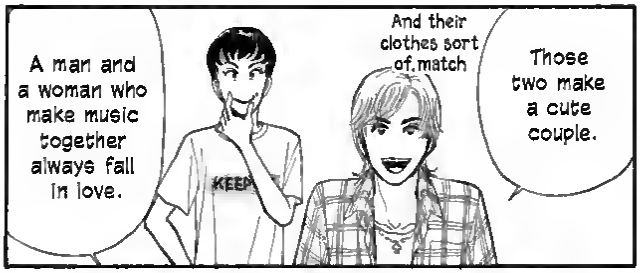

Yeah, it was unfortunate about the commercial.
Queen Record is a snake for playing dirty.
ALTHOUGH IT'S COMMON.
NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
Thank you for all you did for us.

If there are any unresolved emotions, you can't make great music.
I totally agree with making this mini-album, but you've reconciled with Moe Midorikawa, right?

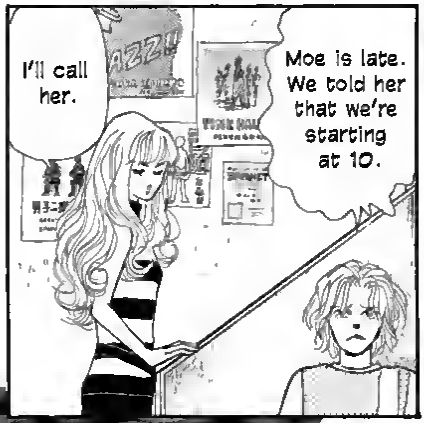

Shi persuaded Moe.
We're fine.

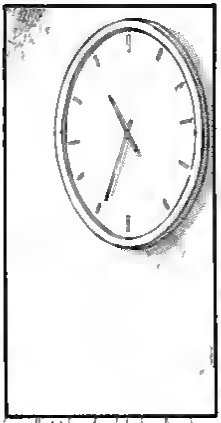

I wanted to preserve this world of music we achieved in the form of a CD.
It's music that can only be created by Moe, Ran, and me.
SRM is a group that elevates our music to its highest potential.
THIS MAY BE OUR LAST TIME.
OR MAYBE WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO PERFORM TOGETHER AGAIN.
I WANT THE PERSON I LOVE TO HEAR ME SING.
I UNDERSTAND NOW... THAT'S WHAT MUSIC IS FOR.
Is your arm OK?
OK, OK.
NO MATTER WHAT...
...I WANT RAN TO BE SMILING NEXT TO ME AS I SING.
Hey, this is a pretty good piano.

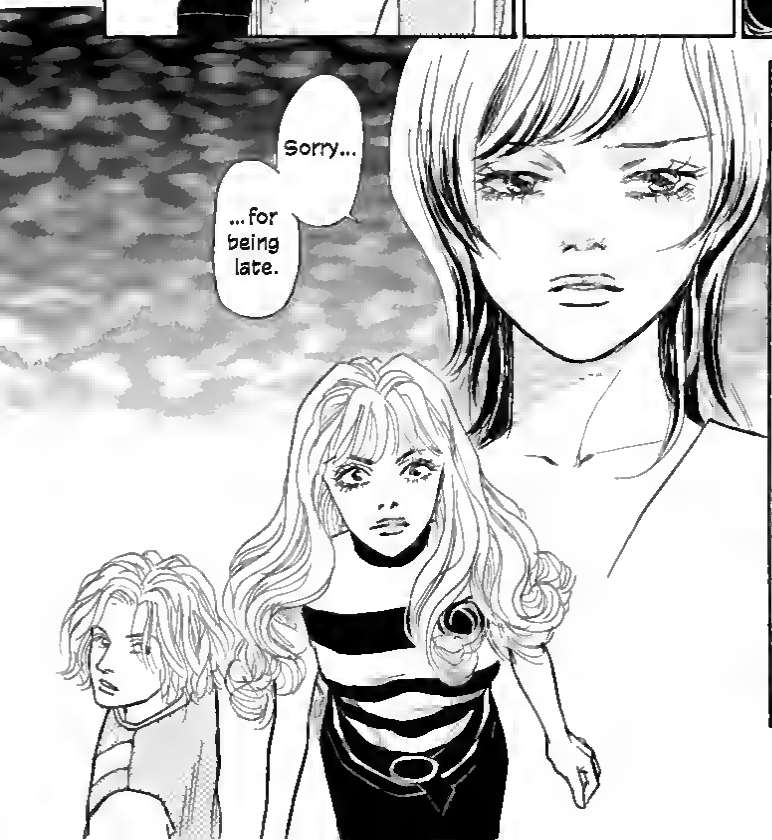
PRIDE 4


A man and a woman who make music together always fall in love.
And their clothes sort of match
Those two make a cute couple.

I SHOULD TALK TO MR. JINNO.


I'll call her.
Moe is late. We told her that we're starting at 10.

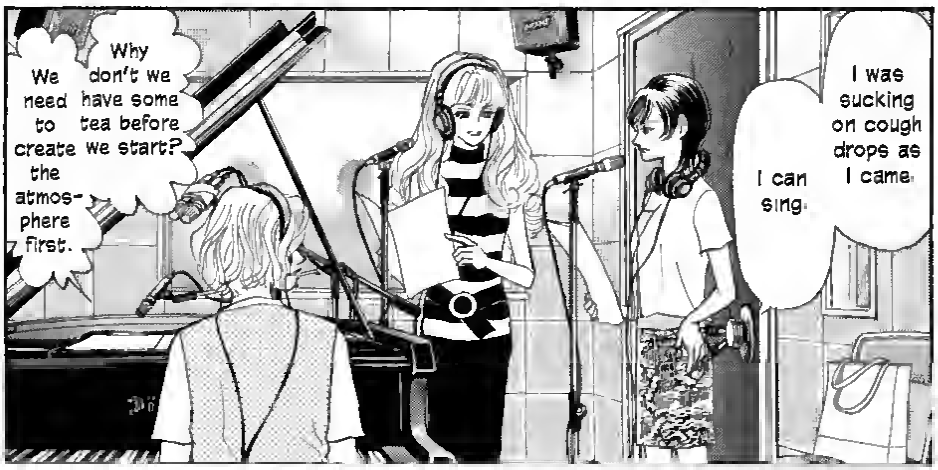



Sorry...
...for being late.

THUMP
10
11
12
1
2

KEEP OUT
So could we start immediately?
I only have time today.

Do you need something for your throat?
HER VOICE IS HOARSE.
AND IT'S OBVIOUS THAT SHE'S BEEN CRYING.


We need to create the atmosphere first.
Why don't we have some tea before we start?
I can sing.
I was sucking on cough drops as I came.

PRIDE 4

After a duet, play the piano.
Starting with Moe.
Then Shio.
HOW SCARY.
I need to check the microphones. Can you sing into them?
KEEP OUT
We always sing without doing that!
OK.
SHE CAN'T SING AT ALL!
HOW COULD SHE SING LIKE THAT?
WHAT HAPPENED TO MAKE HER ACT THIS WAY?
MOE IS USUALLY RELIABLE WHEN IT COMES TO MUSIC.
In a sense, this has become an interesting session.
You don't have to commentate.
Moe is acting like she doesn't care.
Ran's pissed off.
And Shio is doing her best to reconcile them.

BAM!!!!
Let's take a break.
This isn't going to work.
Do you even have time?
Something bad happened...
My condition is the worst it could be. I can't do it today.
Could we reschedule? I want to make a good CD, too.
SIGH
I'm sorry.

Hey, I brought some snacks. But you're canceling?
カン
CLANK
カン
CLANK
Then let's eat lunch!
I agree. We should reschedule.
KEEP OUT
I thought you went back to New York already.
So I thought I'd drop by.
Mr. Kimura told me that you guys were recording.
She had an urgent matter come up.
EIKO DOESN'T KNOW THAT I'M KEEPING MY ENGAGEMENT TO MR. JINNO A SECRET!
No prob- Oh. lem.
I didn't know you two hung out.
Thanks for yesterday, Shio.
KEEP OU

Sure.
?
I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE PROBLEMS UNTIL OUR RECORDING IS DONE.
I need to talk to you.
Privately.
Huh?
There's one at Harry Winston that would look great on you. Choose that one!
You haven't gotten a ring from Takashi yet?

PRIDE 4 END

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プライド 4

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